



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER

Heroes, Sacrifice. Transformation, Justice.

"He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him." - Isaiah 53:2

GOD IN FILM STUDY GUIDES



God in Film study guides combine your two favourite things, God and movies. Upskill yourself for group discussions that explores deep themes. Learn to be the Producer, Director and Reviewer of your own film discussion group.



PRODUCER

Prep for the discussion

How can you make the most use of your time?

- Watch the movie first alone to prepare to facilitate the discussion
- Read the guide for the movie you are watching, decide what your group needs
- Have a running sheet for the way the event will run, or use our template.
- Arrange your physical or online space for group dynamics
- Pray for the group before you meet.



DIRECTOR

Keep the discussion rolling...

How can you make sure the night runs smoothly?

- As the "director", you are not the expert but the person who makes sure the night runs smoothly, not the final authority on film or God.
- Ask an opening question, to get people thinking.
- Watch the movie together all the way through to allow people to develop their own ideas
- Prepare key clips to re-watch and discuss (provided in guides). These help with engagement



REVIEWER

Help your group members become reviewers

How can you encourage your group to engage with deeper questions?

- Establish a positive culture. Affirm people's comments and encourage respectful listening from the whole group through your example.
- Don't correct ideas but listen, mirror their response and then ask for the group's opinions to keep discussion flowing
- Encourage experiential comments and opinions. When people become more analytical, try and bring it back to the person's experience of the film by asking questions. Use your pre-prepared clips to refresh their initial reactions

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Film Synopsis

It is 1941 and the world is in the throes of war. Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) wants to do his part and join America's armed forces, but the military rejects him because of his small stature and sickly constitution. Finally, Steve gets his chance when he is accepted into an experimental program that turns him into a supersoldier called Captain America. Joining forces with Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan) and Peggy Carter (Hayley Atwell), Captain America leads the fight against the Nazi-backed HYDRA organization.



Produce

Planning List

- 1) Watch the Film, what themes can you see? What will your group connect with?
- 2) Prepare some clips to highlight these themes (suggested clips (p, 3)
- 3) Prepare a runsheet or adapt the template
- 4) Pray and prepare your space (online or physical)



Direct

Discussion Questions

1. When Dr. Erskine was recruiting for his super-soldier program, he said he was 'looking for qualities beyond the physical.'
2. What sort of qualities do you think he had in mind? Do you think they are important?



Review

What to highlight in the discussion?

Beyond his physical appearance, Steve has going for him because he has a good heart. Which is something that cannot be seen outwardly, except through someone's actions. 'A weak man knows the value of strength, and knows compassion.' What did Erskine mean when he said this? Something to consider and discuss: Is there really any good man?

Jesus was not a person who was known for his good looks, big muscles or any physical characteristics. Yet, people followed him, loved him, died for him: Why? Was it because he was good or was there something more?

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. - Mark 10:18



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Clips

Not the hero you expected

Steve Rogers was not what anyone expected when people were thinking of the future hero, Captain America. He was humble and did not have the physical presence of most of the other soldiers. Yet, he had something that made him stand out.

What sort of qualities might we overlook in others in our hurry to pigeon-hole people into categories defined by society?

Transformation

Many do not know that the original Captain America comics process was called 'rebirth.' It is a fictionalised systems that can change us to look like the actor Chris Evans. What do you think of the concept of a God who loves us regardless of our weaknesses, no exceptions whatsoever? Is there a 'process' that can transform our lives?

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. - 2 Corinthians 5:17



Close the Curtain

Don't You Dare Be Late

A quote says that God may seem to be slow at times, but he is never late. One thing shown in the Bible is that God's timing and plan are perfect. So, why do you think that Jesus chose to die on the cross? Have you considered your need for a Saviour and accepted Jesus?