



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

WALL-E

An Adventure Beyond the Ordinar-E

All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

- Romans 3:23

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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's the year 2800 and the Earth is a complete mess, full with garbage produced by humans. The trash has left the Earth uninhabitable and utterly devoid of life. Well, not wholly: one small robot, WALL-E, and his pet cockroach still remain. His job is to clean up the Earth and he's been doing it for 700 years. The film starts by zooming in from space on to the Earth. The camera goes through a thick cloud of what appears to be the debris of satellites around the earth. There is a thick cloud of dust, but as it lifts we see pile upon pile of garbage. It looks like a disaster story, but in amongst this scene's horror, a bubbly, quirky robot playing a jolly tune captures our attention. This is WALL-E in all his little glory. This expertly crafted story reminds us that we all long to be, and have a need to be, loved and to love – can there be a more obvious treatise to this film in “love one another as I have loved you”. Connection to one another and the desire to connect with something outside of ourselves also weaves thematically through the film. *Synopsis written by Adrian Drayton*



Produce

Planning List

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



Direct

Discussion Questions

1. Wall-e is cleaning up after mankind, but their rubbish represents more than just poor environmental choices. How does all of the rubbish point to the 'sins' of humanity?
2. Is it more than just throwing trash away?



Review

In the Beginning.

The creative team at Pixar seem to be pointing to themes that have their origins in the Bible, specifically the relationship between WALL-E and Eve.

What are the Biblical references that they are pointing to in the movie?

- Creation of mankind?
- The world's brokenness?

What are some things that you see in life that need fixing? Do you think you 'sin'?

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Discussion points

Battle for salvation

Even though we can see we need to fix things in this world, forces are often working against achieving this goal. The Captain, Eve and WALL-E merely want to get humanity home to Earth, but the 'ship' has other plans for the future of mankind.

What are the forces that fight against the salvation of humanity in our world?
How do you battle against doing the wrong things (sin) in life?

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. - Ephesians 6:12

Close the Curtain

The need for a saviour

Even though humanity has failed in different ways, God thinks we are worth saving. In WALL-E, we can see that there is a need for someone to fight for us. The Bible has a similar message about our need for saving.

Have you ever considered that you need help to keep from doing the wrong things in your life?