



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

WONDER

You can't try and blend in, when you were born to stand out.

From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. - Galatians 6:7

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

August "Auggie" Pullman (Jacob Tremblay) was born with Treacher Collins syndrome, and despite enduring numerous surgeries, he still lives with multiple facial deformities. His mother Isabel (Julia Roberts) has homeschooled him for the first few years of his life, but his parents decide it is time for him to enter school at year five. His new principal tries to help Auggie to adapt to the school by introducing him to some of his classmates before the term, but nothing can adequately prepare him for the other students' responses to his condition. As he travels through this new season of his life, he becomes the centre of the story, but director Stephen Chbosky (Perks of Being A Wallflower) manages to show what effect it is to be a person in Auggie's relational orbit. What is striking about this story is that the central character is born with a physical deformity, but the film is not about the condition. Palacio's story takes us through the different layers of how situations like these in our lives do not happen in a vacuum. Watching the narrative unfold on the screen provides an appreciation for families who strive to make the most of the challenges that come into their lives.



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. Did you enjoy the film, and why or why not? Did it remind you of any part of your life at school?
2. What was the hardest thing to watch during this film about August "Auggie" Pullman?



Review

Asking questions

Auggie heads to school is confronted by other students who do not understand his condition. The reality is that some people can be cruel deliberately or unintentionally, but that does not excuse being rude. Yet, that does not mean we should not ask others questions about their lives.

Are there better ways to empathise with others who may look or sound different than you?



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Clips

A friend that sticks closer than a brother

Throughout life we all have friends that come and go, but there are some who stick around through thick and thin. Regardless of age, we all need friends to help us through the good and bad stages of life on earth. Have you thought about what kind of friend you are to others?

Who is that friend that has always been there for you and how is your relationship?

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. - Proverbs 18:24

Close the Curtain

Standing up for what is right

Sometimes we need to take a stand for what is right or at least defend someone who has been wronged. This can be hard and it may cause difficulties in relationships, but that does not make it wrong. Are you willing to offer help or mercy to someone who is having a hard time?

Has there been someone who has stepped in for you to help you in your life? Why?

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and oppressed.” - Psalm 82:3