



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

A MAN CALLED OTTO

"You think you can do everything on your own. Well, guess what? No one can."



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Film Synopsis

Everybody loves Tom Hanks. Not only is he a gifted actor with two Academy Awards, four other nominations, and dozens of other accolades. Yet, he has also become a cultural icon known for his warmth and genuity. He can give dramatic and comedic performances and is considered one of the most successful actors. In September 2017, it was announced that Hanks would star in an English-language adaptation of the 2015 Swedish film *A Man Called Ove*.

In this storyline, grumpy 60-year-old Otto Anderson's wife dies and then he is forced to retire from his job of nearly 40 years. Since he seemingly has nothing to live for, Otto decides to end his life. Still, his attempts are constantly interrupted by his boisterous new neighbours who move in across the street. An unlikely friendship forms as he meets his match in the quick-witted, pregnant mother Marisol (Mariana Treviño), who challenges him to see the brighter side of things. (Michael Walsh)



Discussion points

This tale of neighbours tale is one that everyone can potentially relate to as we look around where we live. Did you connect with any of the characters in the film? Did any of them remind you or your neighbours? Why?

What was the one element that caught your attention about the screenplay? Grief, community, justice, etc. What did the film get right about this story element for you?

What would you say was made this film stand out from other movies? Why?



Close the Curtain

As the film unfolds, we learn that he used to be an instrumental leader in the housing community but has become increasingly unfriendly and uncaring of his fellow neighbours. That is until his new neighbours inject his black-and-white world with much-needed colour. His unlikely friendship with the matriarch Marisol leads Otto to rediscover the importance of caring for others and letting others care for him. A gradual depiction of the power of community and value of neighbourly love.

Mark 12:31 - "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus taught strongly about the importance of loving one's neighbours. He stated that loving your neighbour is one of the most important aspects of life. How does this statement impact your life? Do you love those around you as yourself?

Jesus also shared the parable of the Good Samaritan, in which he taught that neighbourly love extends beyond nationalities, ethnicities, religion and relationship. When you get a chance, read the full story of The Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37.