

## Movie Night\*

- ▶ **Main Point:** Watch films together with your teens with the intent of discussing how certain films or scenes within a film reflect a view of God and life that is either consistent or inconsistent with a Christian perspective.
  - ▶ **Preparation:** Make sure you select a film that is age and content appropriate. Preview the film before watching it with your family so that you can prepare for your discussion time and are ready to skip past any offensive sections.
  - ▶ **Suggested Age:** Teen
  - ▶ **Estimated Time:** 20–30 minutes (after film)
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Here are two examples of the kinds of questions you can discuss after a film:

1. ***The Help*** (2011; PG-13): Set in Jackson, Mississippi during the 1960's, Skeeter Phelan defies the cultural norm and befriends Aibileen, an African-American house maid, on her quest to write a book portraying an honest account of life as a black housemaid in the south. The film provides a compelling look at racism as well as peer pressure and true friendship.

After viewing the film, ask the following discussion questions.

- What does it mean that all people are made in the image of God?
- Skeeter ends up losing several friends because of her book and her stand on civil rights. What does that say about her integrity? How does that relate to your relationships at school?
- Near the end of the film, Aibileen says, "God says we need to love our enemies." What verse(s) is she referring to? What does it mean to "love your enemy"?
- In one unforgettable scene, Minny drops off a "special" pie for Hilly. But Romans 12:17–19 says we aren't supposed to take revenge. Was what Minny did wrong? What else could she have done?

2. ***The Social Network*** (2010; PG-13): This film follows Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg as he and a group of friends create what eventually becomes Facebook. While the film takes some creative liberties and is not completely factual, it does present an interesting look into social media, friendship, and betrayal.

After viewing the film, ask the following discussion questions.

- Early in the film, Mark creates a website that allows people to rate a girl's attractiveness. Is this a good idea? How does this relate to 1 Samuel 16:7?
- The film leaves some doubt about whether Mark stole the idea for Facebook from the Winklevoss brothers. Do you think Mark was honest with them? Does the end justify the means?
- What does this film say about success? How does God look at success? Can you be a success on earth and not fall to the temptations of greed, sex, and drugs?
- Do you think Jesus would have a Facebook account? Why or why not?

\*From Kurt and Olivia Bruner, *The Family Compass*, (Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1999), 84.