



Movie Chat Tips

Discussion vs. Diversion

Many of us watch films as "mindless entertainment" and that is OK. But movies can help sharpen discernment skills since every story reflects beliefs that either reinforce or undermine Christian truth. A few tips...

- Enjoy the film! Wait for the end for discussion.
- Don't limit your chats to films that affirm faith. Films that oppose Christian beliefs can trigger great discussion, especially with mature teens.

Screen vs. Shock

Unfortunately, most popular films contain offensive content like language, sexuality, and violence. Parents must pre-screen films to avoid surprises. Even if someone you trust recommends the film, it is wise to check yourself since it is easy to forget or underestimate the power of certain scenes.

A few tips...

- Read detailed descriptions of film content by title at pluggedinonline.com or dove.org

Recommended Movie Chats

See Recipe Cards for Specific Discussion Questions

Movie Chats with Teens

Captain America

Theme: Virtue and Character

Summary: Set in WWII, this funny, inspiring action film affirms the priority of being a good man over being a dangerous warrior.

Contact

Theme: Science vs. Religion

Summary: The main character (Jodi Foster) is a scientist on a quest to find intelligent life beyond earth. A strict atheist, her perspective is challenged by the man she loves, a popular minister (Matthew McConaughey).

Movie Chats with the Whole Family

Ratatouille

Theme: Relating to Food

Summary: This film features a rat who is a gifted chef as he relates to a variety of characters with different food obsessions, from gluttonous overindulgence to snobbish pickiness. Each character embodies one or more unhealthy approach to God's gift called food.

Amazing Grace

Theme: Human Dignity and Compassion

Summary: This film tells the epic true story of William Wilberforce - an 18th century British politician who led a very unpopular movement to end the slave trade motivated by a deep Christian faith.

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Movie Night Chats

Think about it.....

- Films shape our opinions and beliefs in powerful ways
- The Apostle Paul quoted popular stories from the ancient world to point people to God (Acts 17)
- Movies are the informal "mythology" of this generation, often creating experiences more impactful than a child's religious routines.
- Every story reflects some system of belief and can spark dialogue on themes important to Christians.

Select Wisely



Not every film is worth watching or touches important themes. Select a film that can trigger meaningful dialogue. Ask those you trust what films they have seen with worthwhile themes, then preview before watching.



Watch Intentionally

It is easy to turn watching movies into an intentional time for discussion. Before starting the film, say you want to watch from a Christian perspective. Ask everyone to look for specific scenes that reinforce or undermine our beliefs



Discuss Openly

After watching the film, enjoy open dialogue about what you've seen. Feel free to use the Recipe Cards or this guide for conversation. Invite one person to guide everyone through the process. Remember, the goal is not to teach or even agree, but to foster healthy conversation and sharpen thinking skills.



Movie Chat Guide

Film Title: _____

The Story:

- Who is the central character? (The "hero")
- Who or what does the main character want?
- Who or what are the obstacles that must be overcome?
- What was the "ultimate conflict" of the drama?



The Worldview:

How might the main character answer?

- Why am I (are we) here?
- What is wrong in my/our world?
- How has/will it be made right again?
- What central lesson or agenda do you think the writer conveys, intentionally or not?
- On the whole, does the film reinforce or undermine a Christian worldview?



Other Questions:

- What wrong choices were made?
- What right choices were made?
- Can we learn anything from the story



Specific Scenes:

Describe one or more scenes you think were impactful from a faith perspective



Film Title: A Christmas Carol

The Story:

- Ebenezer Scrooge
- He thinks he wants to be rich and alone, but really wants to be loved
- His selfish choices and stubborn will
- Facing the inevitability of dying



The Worldview:

- To do good to fellow man
- People suffer because we neglect charity
- Repenting of greed to care for others
- Poverty is a consequence of greed and there is misery through isolation
- Affirms rewards and punishment after death and a Christian view of charity



Other Questions:

- Scrooge worshipped money
- Scrooge admitted he was wrong
- Love people more than money or things



Specific Scenes:

At the grave, Scrooge "repents" of his "sins" and determines change