



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

THE GOOD LIE

Suffering. Grace. Community. Sacrifice.

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Philippians 2:4

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

They were known simply as 'The Lost Boys.' Orphaned by the brutal civil war in Sudan, which began in 1983, these children travelled hundreds of miles on foot in search of safety. Fifteen years later, a humanitarian effort would bring 3,600 Lost Boys, as well as girls, to America. The Good Lie brings the story of their survival and triumph to life. When an attack by the northern militia destroys their home and kills their parents, a tattered group of survivors makes the difficult trek to Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Thirteen years later, the now young adults are given the opportunity to leave the camp and resettle in America. Upon arriving in Kansas City, Missouri, they are met by Carrie Davis (Academy Award winner Reese Witherspoon), an employment agency counsellor who has been enlisted to help find them jobs.



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. Is there a time when you felt out of place, or on the outside of a community? Why?
2. How have you reacted to people on the outside of your community? What are some concrete steps you can take to better welcome and support them?
3. What is the difference between responsibility and guilt? How can each lead us to make changes or take action?



Review

What to highlight in the discussion?

The Good Lie will take you on a journey that exposes how hope and redemption can come out of an atrocity.

What is the good lie that comes from this film and the teachings of Mark Twain? Is it justified?



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Clips

What is the good lie?

When an action is done for the betterment of others does this justify something that would normally be morally wrong?

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight. - Proverbs 12:22

Was your father a chief?

Sometimes life is a series of different perspectives. What are some elements you could consider from this clip?

Are there dangers from your past life holding you back from moving forward?

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. - 2 Timothy 1:7

It was my fault

Are there situations in life that you need to let go for your own physical, emotional and spiritual health?

Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. - 1 Peter 5:7



Close the Curtain

Is your name on the list?

From this clip there are allusions to the list for the 'end of days?' How do you get your name on the list?

The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. - Revelation 3:5