



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE

Nature just got gangster.

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. – Proverbs 28:13

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

GOD IN FILM STUDY GUIDES



Film Synopsis

Ricky Baker (Julian Dennison) has literally come to the end of the road. He is a victim of the foster care system and the last resort is to bring him to the edge of the New Zealand bush. With all of his delinquent tendencies, the child care officers are desperate to find Ricky a home and they manage to find him the most unlikely family pairing in Bella (Rima Te Miata) and Hector Faulkner (Sam Neill). After a bumpy start and a few attempts at running away, they slowly become a unique family unit, primarily due to the persistent motherly love and care of Bella. Just as things are settling in for this familial trio, tragedy strikes and child protective services determine that they need to relocate Ricky, again. Knowing the system well and not wanting to return to that world, he decides to make it on his own in amongst the millions of hectares of the New Zealand bush. Not long after his escape attempt, Hector tracks Ricky down with the intention of sending him back to the government authorities. Then in the process of capturing the young fella, he unintentionally makes them fugitives of the law and forces them to go further into the bush to keep both of them out of the hands of law enforcement. Through the process of running, their relationship grows stronger while a national manhunt ensues to find the pair of unassuming wanted pair.



Produce

Planning List

- 1) Watch the Film, what themes can you see? What will your group connect with?
- 2) Prepare some discussion points to highlight these themes (suggested clips (p. 3)
- 3) Prepare a run sheet or adapt the template
- 4) Pray and prepare your space (online or physical)



Direct

Discussion Questions

1. Are there any lessons or morals that the characters learn on their journey? If so, please explain.
2. Which character did you relate with the most? Why?



Review

A Real Bad Egg.

Ricky Baker comes with a record of minor infractions, but when all put together they seem to say that he is trouble. Even though Bella sees the best in the young man, it is difficult for him to shake his reputation.

What is the value of a good name? Do you feel that you have been misunderstood or wrongly labelled for your past?



GOD IN FILM STUDY GUIDES



Discussion points

Ricky Baker

Now that song will be in your head for the rest of the night. If you listen to the words, Bella sings of a change in Ricky. Loved, accepted and seen in a different light.

When people are given a new lease on life and shown mercy combined with love, what impact does this have on them? Do you have a story of this sort of transformation?

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Close the Curtain

Which door do you choose?

Admittedly, this scene is being played for laughs. Yet, despite the bizarre interpretation of the story of Jesus, there is a truth to consider.

If there is only a choice between the pleasures of the world and a connection with Jesus, which would you choose? Why did you make that choice?

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. - John 10: 9-10