



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

LA LA LAND

What can jazz teach us about faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. - Hebrews 11:1

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

La La Land brings together an aspiring actress and a jazz pianist who both pine for the future, but keep their feet standing squarely in the past. Mia (Emma Stone) desires to get out from behind the counter of the local coffee shop, but gets knocked back with every audition. While Sebastian (Ryan Gosling) aspires to own his own jazz club, but finds it hard for people to capture his musical vision. When these two come together, it is like the fusion of two worlds that should not mix, because their attraction brings out the best and worst in their lives. This fascinating love affair is conveyed through song, dance and a well choreographed script that is set within the beauty of the multi-layered aspects of the Hollywood landscape.



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. Did you enjoy the film, and why or why not? Was it what you expected?
2. What do Mia and Sebastian want from their lives in LA?
3. What drives each of them to pursue their respective dreams?



Review

What Chazelle manages to do with this screenplay is to develop an appreciation of the past, but seeing the essential need for forward motion. This dichotomy can be seen in the world of jazz, in the hard-fought world of the thespian and in the re-imagining of the modern musical. He awakens both the hearts of the traditionalist and the dreamer to believe that all that is happening on screen could come true.

Whether it is seen in history as a triumph or merely experimental, this is a film that can be described by it's own script as 'A dream! It's a conflict and it's compromise and it's very, very exciting!' To miss this film in theatres would be a travesty, it will move you in ways you do not expect.



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Discussion points

Someone in the crowd

Are we only a face in the crowd or is there someone who sees our true value?

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. - Matthew 10: 29-31

Fools that dream

What did you think God thinks of our aspirations?

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. - 1 John 2: 15-17

Close the Curtain

Another day in the sun

According to La La Land, what draws people to become artists? Do you think there is any truth to the idea of the 'artistic temperament'? Why does society need artists?

Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men. -Proverbs 22:29

But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. - Isaiah 64:8