



# GOD IN FILM

## STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

## A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

"Sometimes, we have to ask for help. And that's okay."

Fred Rogers

*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 discussions around key themes of the film.



## 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.*



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## Film Synopsis

When Tom Hanks was announced as the actor to play this icon of preschool programming, it caused a bittersweet tension. There was exuberance for the Academy Award-winning actor taking on the role, but concern that there was a dark backstory that they were going to bring out about the cardigan wearing man. Thankfully, this fear was unwarranted, because Mister Rogers was a man of remarkable character. And he is merely a supporting character in this story of journalist Tom Junod (renamed in the film to Lloyd Vogel). A writer who was assigned to interview the star of public broadcasting. A duty that would profoundly affect the writer and lead to a friendship that would last until Fred Rogers' death.

The journalist hoped to discover more about the legendary television star, trying to prove that the persona he portrayed on screen was merely a facade. This plan slowly unravelled as the two men got to know one another through a series of interviews. Vogel (Matthew Rhys) realised that there is more to the man in the red cardigan than he assumed. A depth of character and care for mankind that proved to be disarming to the point of allowing Mister Rogers to dig deeper into his own family life. What was supposed to be a short profile of the television personality turned into an extensive article that showed the influence the presenter had on the reporter.



## Discussion points

Did you enjoy the movie? What did you like about the story?

What were the big topics that came from this screenplay? How did the film unpack and address forgiveness, redemption and brokenness?

Fred Rogers was theologically trained, did this help or hinder his work as a children's entertainer? Why?



## Close the Curtain

A central character in the Fred Rogers, but this was truly a journey for journalist Tom Junod. Could you relate with his bitterness and brokenness?

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. - Psalm 34:18

This world seems to be hurting and broken. What is your reasoning for this and is there a solution?

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. 20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.- Romans 5: 18-21