



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

CYRANO

For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

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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

As a captain within the French guard in the late 1800s, Cyrano (Peter Dinklage) is an accomplished swordsman who is respected by his regiment and a well-known poet. During his time outside of the military, this leader of men is a faithful companion to his friend of many years, Roxanne (Haley Bennett). Due to his more diminutive stature, he is considered a friend of the statuesque woman. He merely serves her with no reservation, but secretly loves her with all of his being. Men pursue her beauty throughout the city, including the wealthy and influential Comte De Guiche (Ben Mendelsohn). Yet, she only has eyes for Christian de Neuvillette (Kelvin Harrison Jr.), a soldier who has recently joined the guard within Cyrano's unit. As she fends off the advances of De Guiche, Roxanne asks her small friend to befriend this young soldier and encourage Christian to write to her. This request is unbearable for Cyrano to consider until he realises that this is his opportunity to express his love to the woman who captivates his every thought. Since Christian has no mastery of the written word, the two men devise a plan where one writes the letters and the other signs them while gaining the heart of Roxanne.



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. How do you find out the heart of people without merely judging them on their outward appearance?
2. Do you write letters? Why do you think it was important to the story?
3. Why is it hard to tell people what you think about them?



Review

Outward appearances

In our society that is consumed by the latest social media post and how people look, how do we move past this aspect of life? Can we know what is going on in people's hearts?

For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."- 1 Samuel 16:7

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Discussion points

The value of words

When it is easier to test someone with a series of emojis, it is hard to imagine a world of letter-writing. Yet, words are powerful things and can be used in a multitude of ways to motivate people to do anything. What has been your experience with the power of words?

For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. - Matthew 12:27

Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. - Proverbs 29:20

One label that is worn by Jesus in the Bible is The Word. It implies that God has placed high value on the words of the Bible. Also, that Jesus was the representation of these words. It might be quite a bit to consider, but does that change your perspective of the Bible? Why or why not?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. - John 1:1

Close the Curtain

Love

Cyrano is a tale of unspoken love that leads to a tragic end. Yet, does love have to be that way? Have you ever considered that the Bible is a love story? God has written his love letter to humanity to share all that he has done and how deep his love is for us. How does this make you look at the Bible differently today?

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. - 1 John 4:16