



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

THE MARTIAN

Is anyone there for you?

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. - James 1:12

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

When a fierce storm during a manned mission to Mars leaves astronaut Mark Watney stranded alone on the red planet, it seems all hope is lost. But Watney is not the type to give up easily. Using his botany skills, his ingenuity and a lot of duct tape, he sets about staying alive until somebody can come and rescue him. Help is only 140 million miles away. Back on Earth, NASA head Teddy Sanders (Jeff Daniels) and his colleagues – including mission director Vincent Kapoor (Chiwetel Ejiofor) and spokesperson Annie Monroe (Kristen Wiig) – try to figure out how to achieve the impossible. Meanwhile, Watney's commander, Melissa Lewis (Jessica Chastain), and the rest of her crew are on their return voyage, still believing that they left him for dead. What will they do if they find out the truth?



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. Did you enjoy the film, and why or why not? What were your favourite scenes? How does it compare with other work by director Ridley Scott and star Matt Damon?
2. How did you respond to Mark Watney as a character? Did you want to know more about his situation?
3. What did this add to the film, and do you think it detracted at all? What value does humour have in crises or in tragic situations?



Review

Creating something from nothing.

Mankind has an underlying need to create. Unlike any other creature on earth, humans see the value of making something new or fixing a problem. Where does this drive come from?

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." - Genesis 1:26



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Clips

Being the first

Can you imagine the overwhelming feeling of being the first of anything? The first to walk on a planet, the first to go to University in your family or just being the first born. There is a pride that comes with this label, but there is a responsibility too.

How would you respond to being the first person to walk on Mars or Earth?

The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven.- 1 Corinthians 15:47

The interpretation of laws

Mark interprets international law while on his journey across the planet. It is a fun way for him to consider being a pirate on Mars. Yet, what difference does the law make in any culture?

Why do we have laws in place and what value are they to society? Do God and the Bible have anything to add to this discussion?

Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. 20 Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. - Galatians 3:19-20

Close the Curtain

If you don't, Mark dies

Who can put the price on the value of one person's life over another? Depending on the culture you grew up in, human life has varying degrees of value. This film points to a cultural discussion of the value of one man's life and how much it is worth to be saved. Does salvation matter outside of the world of film and fiction?