



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

THE TRUMAN SHOW

Is there something more to life?

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun? Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. - Ecclesiastes 1: 1b-4

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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

Since birth, a big fat lie defines the well-organised but humdrum life of the kind-hearted insurance salesman and ambitious explorer, Truman Burbank. Utterly unaware of the thousands of cleverly hidden cameras watching his every move, for nearly three decades, Truman's entire existence pivots around the will and the wild imagination of the ruthlessly manipulative television producer, Christof--the all-powerful TV-creator of an extreme 24/7 reality show: The Truman Show.

As a result, Truman's picturesque neighbourhood with the manicured lawns and the uncannily perfect residents is nothing but an elaborate state-of-the-art set, and the only truth he knows is what the worldwide television network and its deep financial interests dictate. Do lab rats know they are forever imprisoned? Synopsis by Nick Riganas



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. The Truman Show predates our 'Reality Television' industry, but does it say something about our viewing preferences?
2. Which character did you relate with the most in the film?
3. The Para-social Phenomenon is experienced by people when they believe they know the characters in a movie or television show. Is there a certain character in television that you feel you connect with more than others?



Review

Something is out there

Truman Burbank has lived his whole life without the awareness that the world is watching every aspect of his life. Then one day things change for him as a light from the video recording structure falls near his home. This is a turning point for Truman to begin to think that there is something that exists outside of his mild-mannered life. Have you ever thought that there is more to life than the day to day existence we experience?

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Clips

Are we prisoners or do we have a choice?

We are born into this life with no choices of our family, country or lifestyle. Truman does not seem to be able to escape this voyeuristic life, but the creator of his world states that his 'star' is able to leave whenever he wants. Are we merely the victims of our circumstances or do we have a choice in how we live?

"Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it. - Proverbs 21:20

The love of a father

The reunion between Truman and his father proved to be a climax of the 'reality show,' by proving that the bond between father and son was significant for the whole story. 'I always believed' was uttered by Jim Carrey's character, because of the hope he had for the survival of his father. Everyone has a different experience when it comes to the relationship with their father. How can you explain the connection between a child and their father figure?

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. - Psalm 103:13

Close the Curtain

Have you connected with the creator?

Truman is confronted with the reality that everything around him has been artificially created by the show's creator, Christof. Even though this scene is meant to make a statement about God and his creation, it does make you consider if we were created and if there is a God. What are your thoughts?