



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

OCEAN'S 11

In any other town they'd be the bad guys...

Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. - Colossians 3:13

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

Danny Ocean (*George Clooney*) leads a team of eleven con-artists and thieves as they plan on robbing three casinos simultaneously. With a brilliant plan, cunning disguises, truckloads of technology and a little luck, it's going to be one night Vegas never forgets. Danny is just out of prison, has a score to settle with Las Vegas casino owner Terry Benedict (*Andy Garcia*) who took his wife, Tess (*Julia Roberts*) away from him.

Ocean plans to rob Benedict's fiendishly well guarded vault, and he assembles a crack team to help him pull off the heist, among them gambler Rusty (*Brad Pitt*) and con artist Linus (Matt Damon). With financial backing from the mega wealthy Reuben Tishkoff (*Elliott Gould*) the plan is set and the game begins. *Synopsis by SBS reviews*



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. If you were to choose the character or role you would want to play in the Ocean's franchise, which character is closest to your personality or skill set?
2. Is there anything wrong with being entertained by thieves as the good guys?
3. Who is the real villain in this film? Why? How do you determine between wrong and right?



Review

Rehabilitation

Ocean's 11 opens and concludes with Danny leaving prison. It is questionable if the man has been rehabilitated or if he merely had time to plan his next heist. The story would suggest that he experienced some changes while being incarcerated, but was it for the better?

Do you think that the heat of humanity can change? Why or why not?

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. - Psalm 51:10

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Discussion points

Calling a bluff

One of the realities of human existence is that people lie and bluff all the time. Even the most moral of individuals can tell a 'little white lie' at times. Many people would say this is damaging to relationships but if everyone does it, how can we trust anyone?

Is there such a thing as an acceptable lie? Is bluffing considered lying?

Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment. - Proverbs 12:19

Conflict amongst friends

Two topics that Ocean's 11 addresses are tensions within the ranks of the team and dealing with a conflict of interests. Many times these two things come hand in hand, we must confront someone because they seem to have a conflict of interest in a given situation. How is the best way to manage this without damaging the relationships within a group?

Close the Curtain

Repercussions for our choices

Life is filled with choices and we all inevitably make mistakes. Sometimes we choose the right path, while there are days when we fail to 'come home from buying cigarettes.' What are some situations in life where you wish you could have made better decisions? Is there a point when you cannot be forgiven for the choices you made in life?