



# GOD IN FILM

## STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

## UP!

Marriage. Friendship. Value. Faithfulness.

A faithful man will abound with blessings  
Proverbs 28:20a

# 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

Renowned explorer Charles F. Muntz says he has found a new species of giant bird at Paradise Falls, South America. However, archaeologists study the skeleton of the bird and conclude that Muntz fabricated it. Disgraced, Muntz vows to bring back a live specimen and will not return until he does so. Mean while on the other side of the world, young Carl Fredricksen meets Ellie. Both are aspiring explorers who idolize Muntz, and the two quickly become friends. Ellie reveals her dream to Carl about going to live by Paradise Falls. The two eventually get married and repeatedly save up for a trip to Paradise Falls, but always end up spending the money on more pressing needs. As an elderly man, Carl finally buys tickets for the trip, but Ellie falls ill and dies before they can go. Carl continues living in the house he and Ellie fixed up, stubbornly holding out while the neighborhood around him is replaced by skyscrapers. Carl resolves to keep his promise to Ellie. Having worked his entire life as a balloon salesman, he turns his house into a makeshift airship by attaching hundreds of helium balloons to it and flies away. Where will his house take him?



## 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 opening moments of UP! are described as one of the most beautiful depictions of marriage in cinematic history. What does it make you think of in regard to relationships?
2. What are your biggest dreams? Do you think you can achieve them in your lifetime? Why or why not?
3. Do you have someone who mentored you in life?



## Review

Letting go of the past to move forward to the future

Holding onto and remembering the past is not bad, but sometimes it can hinder people from looking to the future. Or like a grape soda bottle cap, these memories can help us to move forward in life.

Are there things you need to release from your past to move ahead in life? Can you forgive yourself for your past mistakes?

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.- 1 John 1:9





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## **Clips**

### The spirit of adventure

Sometimes we need to be taken out of our comfort zone to follow our dreams. Also, many times the path to following our dreams takes interesting detours.

Do you think you are able to follow your dreams? Who inspires those dreams? Does God have a place in them?

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” - Proverbs 16:3

### Right intention, but wrong delivery?

Russell has all of the right words and even has a genuine desire to help Mr. Fredrickson, but his delivery needs a bit of work. Carl does not know how important the Wilderness Explorer will be to him and dismisses him.

Are there tasks in your life that you treat as an obligation opposed to seeing their importance? Could you be dismissive of the very person you need in your life?

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” - Matthew 7:7

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## **Close the Curtain**

### The beauty of life

What does this scene say about life? Is it something to grieve, celebrate or more?