

At The Movies: Week 5

September 29, 2024

Message Summary

In **Despicable Me 4** Gru faces a villain seeking revenge, a common theme that plays out in many stories. But while movies may make revenge seem entertaining, in real life, revenge is destructive. Jesus, in **Matthew 5:38-42**, teaches a different approach—choosing grace, forgiveness, and going beyond what's expected, even when wronged. Instead of seeking “an eye for an eye,” He calls us to turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, and respond with love, not retaliation.

Icebreaker Ideas

1. Favorite Bible Verse and Why

Each person shares their favorite Bible verse and why it's meaningful to them. This can lead to deeper spiritual conversations and give insight into each person's faith journey.

2. God Moments

Ask each person to briefly share a recent "God moment" in their life—something where they felt God's presence, guidance, or provision. This opens the door for faith-based sharing and helps the group connect on a spiritual level.

Key Scripture(s)

Matthew 5:38-42: "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."

Talk About It

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you wanted to seek revenge? How did it impact you or others?
2. What does "turning the other cheek" mean to you in practical terms? How can this be applied in today's world?
3. How does going the "extra mile" (Matthew 5:41) show love or grace in tough situations?
4. Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? What's holding you back from doing so, and how can you take a step toward forgiveness?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to follow Jesus' example of forgiveness and grace. When we are wronged, give us the strength to resist revenge and the wisdom to respond with love. Teach us to turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, and offer forgiveness, just as You have forgiven us. In Jesus' name, Amen.