

Church Unlimited LifeGroups Curriculum

At the Movies 2017

Collateral Beauty

Pastor Bil Corneluis

Leader: Mathew 22:35-40. Howard Inlet is a successful advertising executive that begins the movie asking what is your why. It is then that he introduces the three major themes of the movie; Death, Time, and Love. The Great Commandment tells us to love God with all our heart, mind and soul and secondly to love our neighbors. Love becomes the thing that connects all of us together. We find Howard three years later as a clinically depressed loner who has forgotten how to love due to the death of his daughter. He writes letters to Death, Time, and Love to express how each has failed him. By isolating himself Howard loses his connection to people and God and forgets why he is here.

Question: Has an incident in your life taken you away from those you love and or taken you further from God?

Leader Note: We are called to live in communion with each other and with God. There are times that we dwell on our circumstances and pull away from those in our lives that can help us through.

Leader: 1 Corinthians 15, Psalms 39:4-5, Isaiah 61:3. Howard soon starts to get visited by Death, Time and Love. Each one brings the letters he wrote to them to confront him about what his words. Howard still unable to process his grief attacks each entity for not being there for him. He tried bargaining with Death to take his life instead of his daughters, he argues with Time for being so brief and lastly he says he has no more love. Just as Howard is trying to process his grief he meets Madeleine at a support group who also lost her daughter. She shares with Howard that a woman in the hospital told her as her daughter was dying to see the collateral beauty. Just like Howard and Madeleine we are blinded by tragedy and are not able to see God working all things in our favor.

Question: When have you experienced a tragedy in life that you have been able to look back on and see God was with you all along?

Leader Note: Though it is not easy in the moment, often times we can experience hardship and years later look back with fondness. Sometimes that promotion you missed was God setting you up for bigger things.

Leader: Colossians 3:14. Howard and Madeleine continue meeting to discuss their grief and help each other work through their pain. We come to a scene where Madeleine is watching a video of her ex-husband playing with her daughter and Howard refuses to watch the video. In a twist we find that Howard is actually her ex-husband and that because of his overwhelming grief he has blocked out the fact that Madeleine is his wife. The two are overcome with emotion and embrace and the movie closes with the two of them walking in the park together while Death, Time and Love are observing them. In 1 John 4:8 we are told that God is love and in Colossians 3:14 we learn that love binds all things in perfect unity. God loved us so much he sent his son to die for us conquering death and time.

Question: Whom in your life do you need to show more love? How can you model Christ's Love to someone this week?

Leader Note: It is the little things we can do as children, parents, spouses and friends to show those we love that we are thinking of them.

Mission: To take as many people to Heaven before we die. Period.

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