

Spring 2010

SMALL GROUP SERIES

Christ and Culture

Discussion Guide

Week 2

Small Groups 
Transforming Community @ RBCPC

Christ and Culture: Jesus and Hollywood

Romans 1:16-21 (TNIV)

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, [a] just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of human beings who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Facilitator's Guide

Throughout this series you will see these three questions appear – in sermons, in study guides, on the worship screens – they are intended to engage worshipers in the process of discernment and finding God's truth in our current culture. This week, its off to the movies!

- 1. What part of God's truth does this reveal?**
- 2. Where does it fall short?**
- 3. What does this inspire me to do? Or Who does this inspire me to be?**

As you discuss your favorite movies ("Start it" section), this might be a good exercise for the group. Practice yourself ahead of time!

For New Groups:

Recognizing that each group is unique and will adjust their time accordingly, this may be helpful for those of you trying to figure out a small group format. Here is a sample of how your time might be spent. *Remember the 'Pirates Code': these are just general guidelines! (Can you name that movie?)*

6:00 pm	Arrive, refreshments, fellowship time
6:20	Bring the group together and open in prayer
6:25	START IT (10 minutes)
6:35	STUDY IT (20 minutes)
6:55	LIVE IT (20 minutes)
7:15	PRAY IT (10 minutes)
7:25	Group growth time – Further discussion, additional prayer, life stories, breakout prayer/ discussion groups (2-4 people), men/ women breakout conversation, event or mission planning, etc.
7:45	Wrap up and fellowship, people done by 8 pm.

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START IT

- What's one of your favorite movies, and why?
- What evidence exists in the world of God's existence? Think of several examples (not from scripture, though!)

STUDY IT

- Read the Romans passage. What big concepts is Paul talking about?
- What message is he trying to convey to the Roman church?
- What, according to Paul, does the gospel do?
- What does it mean to be righteous?
- What is the wrath of God? How is it revealed? Who is Paul talking about?
- What are God's invisible qualities?
- Where do we see God's invisible qualities made visible?
- What happens to people who turn away from God's truths?
- What evidence is there in our American, suburban culture of the existence of God and the evidence of the gospel?

LIVE IT

- How can we interact with movies from Hollywood in a spiritual way?
- How can we engage in conversations with friends about movies that point towards the gospel?
- Pick a movie to talk about, one that everyone has seen. Talk about these four questions: What part of God's truth does this reveal? Where does it fall short? What does this movie inspire me to do? Who does this movie inspire me to be?

PRAY IT

- For eyes to see and faith to believe in the invisible nature of God.