



BiG iDEA SMALL GROUP DiSCUSSiON GiDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

04.03/04.10 // GOD AT THE MOVIES: AVATAR

BiG iDEA: Jesus is the One who came to save us by re-connecting us to God, and resurrecting us in a new body for a new world.

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: Did your family have any Easter traditions when you were a kid (like buying “Sunday clothes,” coloring eggs, going out to eat)? Does your family have any Easter traditions now? What was your best Easter ever?

Option 2: Did you see the movie *Avatar*? What did you think of it? Or what is one of your favorite movies? Why?

// Questions for Discussion _____

God Reveals Himself in Nature

1. Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

When you look at a beautiful painting, who do you give credit to?

When you look at the beauty and wonder in nature, who do you give credit to?

What are some things that nature tell us about God’s character or attributes?

2. Romans 1:22-23, 25

"Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. ... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised."

If God made everything, and is everywhere, what’s wrong with worshipping nature?

Without getting into “political debates,” what should our attitude be toward the earth?

God Reveals Himself in Our Consciences

3. Romans 2:14-16

Even Gentiles, who do not have God’s written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. They demonstrate that God’s law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are

doing right. And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone’s secret life.

Do you agree with Jiminy Cricket from Pinocchio, when he says, “Always let your conscience be your guide”? Why or why not?

How will people be judged? What will be the standard of judgment for people who don’t know the Bible? On what basis?

What are some of God’s laws that are “written in the heart”?

God Reveals Himself in His Word

4. 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

What we know about God is only made possible because He has revealed it to us. We could never know anything about Him unless he chose to reveal it.

What are some reasons that make reading the Bible so important?

How does reading the Bible affect our lives differently than other great books?

God Reveals Himself Most Clearly in the Person of Jesus

5. John 1:14 (NLT)

So the Word [the full revelation of God, that is, God Himself] became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.

Why did Jesus become a human?

How does Jesus becoming fully like us, make it easier to relate to Him?

How do you think His being human affected the suffering He endured?

6. Hebrews 9:26-28

But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Why did Jesus have to die?

What are some of the differences before Christ’ first appearance and His coming second appearance?

What are the consequences of a Christian sinning? What should we do when we sin?

7. 1 Corinthians 15: 14, 17 - 18

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ...Your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

How does Christ rising from the dead affect the following ideas?

- **Our hope for eternal life / the defeat of Satan/the Trinity / the power of God / the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy?**

8. 1 Corinthians 15: 43 - 44

Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies....

About 9 out of 10 people believe in heaven according to an ABC news poll. What would you say is the reason so many believe in heaven? What are their beliefs based on? How can we be certain there is heaven? That we will go there?

// **Application** _____

Read and commit to memory Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Read about Christ's death, burial and resurrection in Mark Chapters 14, 15 & 16.

// **Prayer** _____

**Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus.
That God would reach Downriver with His love.**

