



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).

04.10/11.10 // GOD AT THE MOVIES: TWILIGHT

BiG iDEA:

***The cure for our sinful nature that separates us from God by compelling us to be selfish, love the world, and do wrong, is found in the love, life and power offered by Jesus Christ.
(The Cure for Sin is Jesus)***

// **Ice Breaker** _____

Option 1: How do you think movies affect us negatively? positively? Has there been a movie that impacted your way of thinking?

Option 2: What are some of your favorite monsters or bad guys in the movies?

// **Questions for Discussion** _____

1. Genesis 3: 4 - 6

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

How was Eve tempted?

Did Satan make her sin? Can Satan make us sin?

2. 1 John 2: 15 - 17

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Give some everyday examples of the following from the passage:

- **The cravings of sinful man.**
- **The lust of his eyes.**
- **The boasting of what he has and does.**

Why should we not look to these things for fulfillment?

Where should we look for our fulfillment?

3. Ephesians 1:7 (NLT)

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

What does this say about God's love for us?

What would you say to a Christian that says 'I just don't feel God's love'?

Why didn't God just save everyone, but instead made it conditional upon choosing Jesus?

4. Mark 7: 21 - 23

"For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'

What are some ways people rationalize their shortcomings? (for example, that's the way I am)

What are some problems with not realizing or admitting our shortcomings?

5. James 1: 13 - 14

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

What are some reasons that we should just stay away from temptation?

What are some practical ways to avoid temptation? (For example, a recovering alcoholic staying away from bars).

What do we stand to lose if we give into temptation?

6. Romans 7: 21 - 25 (Paul writes)

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

1 John 4:4

...The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

What is wrong with trying to be perfect and not sin by our own strength?

What resources does God give us to overcome temptation?

Have the group share how they have overcome sinful desires and temptations after coming to Christ.

7. In regard to temptation, Martin Luther once said 'You can't keep a bird from flying over your head, but you can keep it from building a nest in your hair.'

What do you think he meant by that?

Is it sinful to be tempted?

When does sin occur?

8. 1 John 1:9

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

Psalm 32: 3, 5

³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"— and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

When we sin, what should we do?

How do you feel when you try to hide your sin? When you confess it?

How do you feel about the idea that a Christian who keeps sinning can be forgiven over and over? Are there any conditions to that?

// **Application** _____

Commit to memory Ephesians 1:7 (NLT)

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

Make a resolution to be sensitive to temptation and not give into it.

Pray Psalm 17: 3

...I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.

// **Prayer** _____

Thank God for Jesus' sacrifice to save us and giving us fulfillment.

For strength to discern temptation and not give into it.

