

Pauline Center for Media Studies

Kids Meeting Jesus at the Movies How to Use These Guides

Out of the Mouths of Babes

Faith sharing with children is an amazing experience. The Holy Spirit moves within them just as much as in us adults and we can gain much insight from engaging them in conversation. Film stories provide so many ways to help kids make the connections they need to live a Christian life, especially by looking at movie characters and the choices they make. Are the choices and actions of the characters something they themselves would choose?

Talking about a film with kids is a very different experience than doing the same with adults. Kids see things very literally and don't have much capacity to think in the abstract. Therefore, when it comes to getting kids to talk about their experience of a movie in light of the Scriptures, you, the leader, are going to have to work a bit harder.

With an adult group you can pose a question and then let the conversation go where it will. With kids, you will have to keep asking them question, upon question, upon question to get them to think about what the movie and/or Scripture means to them. The questions provided on the movie guide for kids are simple, direct, and specific. You'll probably come up with some of your own as the conversation develops.

Things to Remember

In order to legally show movies in their entirety in a public setting (anything outside your living room), you need a public performance license. The information about this can be found on the general movie guide introduction. Also, remember that not all films are appropriate for all ages. We strongly recommend that you always see a movie in its entirety before using it with a group.

Here's how you do *Kids Meeting Jesus at the Movies*:

Once the kids are quiet, invite them into prayer by reminding them that Jesus is present with all of you as you gather. Let them know that today you are watching a movie for a special reason—not just for fun but also to learn to love God more and live like Jesus wants us to.

Ask for (or choose) a volunteer to read the Scripture passage. Encourage them to read it slowly and loudly enough for everyone to hear and understand. Then watch the movie.

After the movie, give a break for the bathroom and replenishment of snacks. Move the chairs into a circle and when everyone is back and settled, re-read the Scripture passage yourself. Then begin asking questions, either the ones from the guide, or your own. As the kids share, remember to keep coming back to the Scripture in connection with the film as they tend to stray from the point sometimes! When it feels like the sharing is winding down, thank them for their insights and close with the prayer on the guide.

