

# MEETING JESUS AT THE MOVIES GUIDE



## The Bad Guys

2022, 1 hr 40 min

Sam Rockwell, Awkwafina, Marc Maron, Anthony Ramos

**Themes:** Responsibility, Self-Sacrifice, Transformation, Virtuous Living

**Focus:** *Transforming from being the Bad Guys to being good guys, Wolf and his friends learn that taking responsibility for our actions and doing good for others leads to love. Building on this firm foundation leads us to the Kingdom of God.*

**Scripture:** 2 Peter 1: 5-11

For this very reason you should make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, your virtue with knowledge, your knowledge with self-control, your self-control with steadfastness, your steadfastness with godliness, your godliness with mutual affection, and your mutual affection with love. If you make these things your own and cause them to grow, they'll keep you from being idle or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Whoever lacks these things is blind and shortsighted, forgetting that he was cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, brothers, you must spare no effort to give your call and election a firm foundation, for if you do this you'll never stumble. In this way your entry into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for. (Alternative Scripture—Galatians 6: 1-5)

### For Reflection and Conversation:

1. What do you think of the film? Why does it sometimes seem that “bad guys” have it better in the world than those who are good? Is this really true? Why or why not?
2. What is it that gives Wolf his first hint about the attraction of doing good for other people? How do you feel when you do something good? What does humility mean to you? Can you be humble while feeling good about doing good? Why or why not?
3. What do you think of how the various characters changed through the film? Wolf? Governor Foxington? What good deeds make your “tail wag”?
4. If there was a “Good Samaritan” award in your town or family would you be able to win it? Would you want to win it? How might you go about winning it? Does there have to be a reward in order to good for someone else? What does the Scripture passage say the reward for doing good will be?
5. Saint Mother Teresa is mentioned twice in the film. Why? How is she an example of self-sacrificing love and doing good? How might you become a better “Good Samaritan” in your community?

### Closing Prayer:

Lord God, help us to overcome the weaknesses we have in order to live more virtuous lives and give us the energy to do the hard work of conversion, cooperating with your grace. Thank you for providing us with examples, like Mother Teresa and Jesus himself, of what self-sacrificing love looks like. May we always do good, not for our own satisfaction or glory, but for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Amen.

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# CINEMA DIVINA GUIDE

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2022, 1 hr 40 min

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**Themes:** Responsibility, Self-Sacrifice, Transformation, Virtuous Living

**Focus:** *Transforming from being the Bad Guys to being good guys, Wolf and his friends learn that taking responsibility for our actions and doing good for others leads to love. Building on this firm foundation leads us to the Kingdom of God.*

**Scripture:** 2 Peter 1: 5-11

For this very reason you should make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, your virtue with knowledge, your knowledge with self-control, your self-control with steadfastness, your steadfastness with godliness, your godliness with mutual affection, and your mutual affection with love. If you make these things your own and cause them to grow, they'll keep you from being idle or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Whoever lacks these things is blind and shortsighted, forgetting that he was cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, brothers, you must spare no effort to give your call and election a firm foundation, for if you do this you'll never stumble. In this way your entry into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for. (Alternative Scripture—Galatians 6: 1-5)

### Cinema Divina:

**Lectio:** What is the story about? What do the words and images, characters, form, and genre say to me? Why is virtuous living so important? Why does it feel good to do good? Where does humility come into play when doing good for others? What makes my "tail wag"? How might I become involved in more good works? Would I win a "Good Samaritan" award? What might I do in order to win one? Does there have to be a reward for doing good? Why or why not? What areas of my life need a transformation right now? How might I be an example, like Mother Teresa was, of doing good in my part of the world?

**Meditatio:** What part of today's Scripture reading and which part of the movie "chose" you?

**Oratio:** Let your spontaneous prayer flow from reading and meditating on the film and/or Scripture.

**Contemplatio:** Spend some time relishing the film as a spiritual experience.

**Actio:** As a result of viewing this film and praying with it, what concrete action is the Holy Spirit calling you to take beyond the film into your everyday life and the world?

### Closing Prayer:

Lord God, help us to overcome the weaknesses we have in order to live more virtuous lives and give us the energy to do the hard work of conversion, cooperating with your grace. Thank you for providing us with examples, like Mother Teresa and Jesus himself, of what self-sacrificing love looks like. May we always do good, not for our own satisfaction or glory, but for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Amen.

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# KIDS MEETING JESUS AT THE MOVIES GUIDE



## The Bad Guys

2022, 1 hr 40 min

Sam Rockwell, Awkwafina, Marc Maron, Anthony Ramos

**Themes:** Responsibility, Self-Sacrifice, Transformation, Virtuous Living

**Focus:** *The Bad Guys* needed to learn that being good made them feel good about themselves. Jesus tells us the same thing, that when we do good it gives glory to God.

**Scripture:** Matthew 5: 14-16

You are the light of the world. A city cannot be hidden if it's set atop a mountain. Nor do you light a lamp and set it beneath a bushel; you set it on the lampstand, instead, so it gives light to everyone in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they'll see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

### To talk about together:

1. Why are all the people afraid of the Bad Guys? Do you think they like making everyone afraid? Why or why not? Why does Mr. Wolf want to be liked and accepted by other people? Do you like to be liked and accepted by others? Why or why not?
2. When Mr. Wolf helps the old lady, his tail wags. Why? How does it feel when you do something good for someone else? Why does it feel good?
3. Miss Tarantula tells Mr. Piranha that he farts when he lies. Why is lying not a good thing to do? Do you lie sometimes? Can you tell the person you lied to that you are sorry?
4. Why is Mr. Wolf embarrassed after he saves the cat in the tree even though it makes him feel good? Have you ever been embarrassed to do something good in front of your friends? Did you still do the good thing? Why or why not?
5. Governor Foxington used to be a "bad guy" but she changed. Why? How did she know what was right from what was wrong? How do you know the difference between right and wrong?
6. What happens to the rest of Mr. Wolf's friends when they start to "wag"? Do you think it's better to be good or to be bad? Why? Sometimes being good means putting the needs of others before your own. Is that something easy to do? Why or why not?
7. Jesus calls us the "light of the world." What does that mean? How are you a "light" to others? What good works do you do that give glory to God? Could you do more? What could you do?

### Closing Prayer:

Lord God, Jesus wants us to be a light to people in the world today but being good is not always easy. Help us to do good for others even if it is hard, not for reward or attention for ourselves, but because our good works give glory to God. Amen.

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