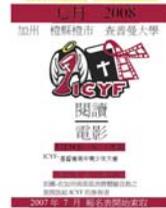


Read the Book – Be the Movie

International Christian Youth Fellowship

Family Group Curriculum



July 2008
Chapman University
 채프먼 대학교
Orange, CA



Read The Book 말씀 읽기
BE THE MOVIE 영화처럼

July 2008
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Read The Book
BE THE MOVIE

July 24 - 27
 ICYF - High School Youth Conference for
 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
July 20 - 24
 "Prequel" - Low cost mission experience in
 Southern California for ICYF participants

WWW.ICYFChapman.org ICYFChapman@yahoo.com

Registration packets available July 2007



Written by Bill Spangler-Dunning
 Please visit <http://discipleshare.ccinky.net/>
 for other FREE DOC Friendly Material

Introduction to material and suggestions before you meet with your family group:

See the movie **Mr. Magorium's Wonder**

Emporium: This material attempts to integrate our Scripture story with dialogue from the recent inspiring movie "Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium." In brief, this movie is about the on going struggle of human beings to discover the God given gift that exists in each of us. It is about the hope most often shared with us by our mentors, parents and teachers. It is about turning what has been passed on to us into our own movie. Please See This Movie!

"The Dream for your Time Together"

One of the basic divisions between churches and denominations has been due to the differing ways we see and understand scripture. The founders and early leaders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) all saw this as a serious issue that was not likely to go away as long as human beings are the ones who read and interpret scripture. What they hoped and dreamed for was a church full of people who would read, study and share their understandings of this critical resource with passion and humility. This combination was the key to their other dream of unity for the whole church. In a world that continues to find any and every reason to divide up holding humility together with passion is essential. They understood that if we only have passion without humility we are likely to become arrogant and this would lead to yet another division. Yet if we only practiced humility without passion it would likely produce a people of faith who would feel no need to challenge or listen to the other. This later manifestation is often articulated as "I won't tell you what to believe if you don't tell me what to believe." It produces a church full of individual worlds. In short, the hope and dream that we would be a "Body" that believed that we actually need each other to know God.

Early on it became clear that this dream only works if people have relationship with each other and have a safe place that encourages them to share with one another. So in these morning sessions it is hoped that a "safe" place is what we create for individuals to share, listen and grow with each other – Truly becoming a Body of Christ with each part believing that there is a need for the other!

The DREAM

If these conversations lead to individuals sharing their faith stories with each other in a way that promotes both stronger relationships with each other and with God

And

If individuals through sharing are able to articulate what they believe with passionate humility

And

If individuals through sharing and listening grow into a stronger appreciation for the diverse perspectives within a congregation and beyond

And

If this sharing and telling of faith stories leads to a stronger understanding of the unique value of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

THEN

The Dream will continue on its way . . .

*"37 seconds
Great, well done, now we wait ...
No We breath,
We pulse,
We regenerate
Our hearts beat,
Our minds create,
Our souls ingest
37 seconds well used is a lifetime!"
--Mr. Magorium*

Thursday, July 24th – The Trailer

- 9:30pm – 10:30pm Family Group

2 Timothy 3: 14, 16-17

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

NOTE TO LEADERS: Your role tonight is critical but simple: Help your family begin to feel that this time together will be a safe place in which they can productively share their understandings of faith and scripture without judgment. Your resources to accomplish this will be: 1. A minimally invasive introduction game and 2. “God Is Here” time. (An open meditation and sharing time). A 3rd (alternative option) is sandwiched in the middle and should be used only if it appears that you have time to spare. This alternative will take about 20 minutes.

Scene 1 Introduction of Characters

Three Phase Introductions

1. (A simple around the circle Name and Where from introduction)
2. Paired up introduction of someone else with 4-5 basic questions
3. A Paired up introduction with someone else that leads to a “Bio” introduction that includes questions that are deeper and theme related. (Ie. What actor would you be most like you?, What movie is most like your life?, What story in the Bible would you most like to see made into a movie and what part would you play?)

Scene 2: Introduction of Topic

“Back to Bible” Game (Alternative if time allows)

1. This is a relay kind of game
2. Two or more teams sit “one person in front of the other” (so that the person behind has a direct look at the back of the person in front of them) This should allow for the person behind to use the person in front’s back as a quasi “Chalk board” of sorts. Minus the chalk of course.
3. The person in the complete back and the person in the complete front have particular roles.
 - a. Person in the back will receive a list containing names of books in the Bible and will write the names on the person’s back directly in front of them. That person then in turn will do the same until it comes to the person in the complete front
 - b. Person in the complete front will have a pencil and paper and will write the names of the books in order on the paper.
4. This is a relay so it is important to encourage speed and accuracy in the task
5. Leaders simply use a Bible and choose 20 book names in order and write them on a piece of paper and then the game begins. Only show the list to the people in the complete back. The lists should be the same for both groups.

6. When the game has completed with one or both groups passing all 20 names through their backs take time to read what came out on the front persons list. Is it the same as the back persons list

Debrief: Don't spend a lot of time here but do make some comparisons between the process of passing this along in the game and the way that Scripture has been passed down through time. First with people experiencing God in their lives, telling the story to others, eventually written down, translated and passed down over the years and then shared from one generation to the next until it has been received by them today.

Ask a few questions:

1. What got in the way of passing the message in the game?
2. What gets in the way of people like you hearing the stories of Scripture? (The way people tell it? They are not ready to hear it? Does not seem relevant to their lives? Or something else)
3. Simply listen and validate their answers. Don't insert your own views yet.

Scene 3: God Is Here Time

Explanation of "God Is Here Time": Much of Scripture is about people noticing God in their midst. But part of Scripture is also about those times when God's people were not noticing that God was among them. This is the connection to "God Is Here Time." Simply put the issue is never that God is not Here it is simply that we are not taking the time to notice that God Is Here.

Set Up Instructions:

1. Take time to pull out the candle and place it in the middle of the group.
2. As you light the candle invite everyone to take a deep breath and slow down. Maybe even try several deep breaths if needed.
3. Invite the group to understand these moments as "God Is Here" Time and what we want to do is simply slow down enough to notice and share with each other how we are feeling and where we might be seeing God.
4. Allow for a few moments of silence just to slow down.
5. Read the Scripture (Twice if it feels right): ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.
6. Invite them to "Notice" God in their lives. Invite them to close their eyes and slowly walk through their lives with a particular eye for noticing times in which someone or something taught or reflected the presence of God or brought to life a particular Scripture story.
7. After a time invite people to share what those times were and whom had been their teachers or reflectors of God. What Scripture stories were they taught? Let them share as time allows.
8. Closing with a blessing prayer for their stories, for Scripture, for people who have taught us and for the time we gather together in this place.

Friday, July 25th – The Book

- 9:30am –10:15am Family Group
- 4:30pm – 5:30pm Family Group

Proverbs 2: 1-11

¹My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,
²making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
³if you indeed cry out for insight,
and raise your voice for understanding;
⁴if you seek it like silver,
and search for it as for hidden treasures—
⁵then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.

⁶For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and
understanding;
⁷he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,
⁸guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.
⁹Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;
¹⁰for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
¹¹prudence will watch over you;
and understanding will guard you.

Morning Session – Focused on Relationship

Scene 4: Casting for Stories “God Is Here Time”

1. Light a candle and announce that “God Is Here!”
2. Opening prayer time that begins with a casual “Check-in” from all gathered. (Like friends will do for one another)
3. Read the Scripture for the day
4. Ask them to share what things they heard in the scripture story today? If needed read it again and repeat.
5. Share the starting story below*
6. Today ask the youth to share the following:
 - a. What is their favorite book or movie and why?
 - b. What movies or books have inspired you and why?
 - c. If your life were to be made into a movie who would play you and why?

*Starting Story:

From “Mr Magorium’s Wonder Emporium”: “All stories, even the ones we love eventually come to an end.

And when they do its only an opportunity for another story to begin.

So the beginning of the end begins with a chapter called Molly Mahoney’s First. Molly Mahoney was the manager of the emporium, Mr Magorium’s apprentice and my only friend. In the mornings Mahoney would play the piano, attempting to finish her very first Concerto but she could never find the right notes.

When she was younger every one thought that she was a musical Genius, a brilliant pianist and she believed them. But now as she became a grownup she was not so sure.

I don’t know why grownups don’t believe what they did when they were kids. I mean aren’t they suppose to be smarter?

What lines of wisdom or inspiration would you hope people would get from your movie?

- d. What chapters would you include from your life? Would there be anything about how you have experienced God or not?
- e. Are there things that you learned about your faith and the Bible when you were a child that you think the movie would show that you had forgotten as you became an adult? Why do you think this happens?
- f. Is it easier to understand or even believe the Bible and/or God as a child or as an adult? Why?

7. Thank the group for their willingness to share their stories

8. Close in prayer

Afternoon Session – Creating the Script for the Movie

Note to leader: In this session it is hoped that we will inspire, allow, encourage some good old fashion childhood play and joy. It is somewhat of a mystery when it happens but at some point in our life we begin to feel the need to take things too serious. Most believe that it happens during our High School days. In the midst of trying to figure out life and ourselves it seems that the world encourages us to be practical in our dreams. This time greatly affects how we relate to Scripture, God and to our faith in general. This is the time that the Bible becomes just a Book and even more distressing it becomes a book we never read let alone let it become a Movie in our lives. So find time to play, create, dream and pretend.

Scene 5: Creating Creativity or Time for Pretending.

Play Time - 3 Options: (Play and have fun. With fun comes creativity)

1. Play “Duck Duck Goose.” I know it’s childish. That is the point!
2. Play Charades: Use the following animal like items for the game. A. A turtle riding a tricycle, B. A giraffe ice skating, C. A cow jumping over the moon, D. A cat playing a piano, E. A grasshopper playing the fiddle, F. A duck running a marathon. Or just make up your own. (Yes its just silly and doesn’t really make too much sense or really have a point. That is the point. Just play and laugh.)
3. Play Circle Story: Sit in a circle. One person begins the story with a “person, place or thing. – The gorilla ...” Then the next person in the circle adds a word “battered” and the next one adds a word, “the” and then next one adds, “stick” and so on. The story is made up as you go along. It won’t always make sense but it might be fun.

Scene 6: Beginnings of the Script.

1. Divide the group into two groups of 5-7 people each.
2. Invite each group to creatively brainstorm “the Top Ten Biblical Stories” that if told together would tell the story that God is Here and in our lives. (Each group will need paper and a writing instrument)
3. Once they have decided on their 10 stories invite them to begin to write a modern “Script” to retell these stories as a movie/play. Encourage them to include everyone in the script in some way.
 - a. Hints: May want to encourage them to divide the stories up into smaller groups and work in twos or threes to write each chapter of the movie script.
 - b. May want to encourage them to write it in an historical tone. I.e. as it is told in scripture

- c. May want to encourage them to make it into a modern tale set in today's time.
- d. May want to encourage them to make it a comedy.
- e. Other ideas if you have them

Note to leader: Allow enough time to practice their plays. As time begins to come to an end gather the whole group back together and pray for their stories. This would include their scripts but also pray for them as individuals as well.

Please note Saturday Afternoon there will be a chance to act these movies out in front of the other half of your group or you may want to team up with another family group for mutual presentations.

Saturday, July 26th – Casting

- 9:30am –10:15am Family Group
- 4:30pm – 5:30pm Family Group

Romans 12

12I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. . .

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ ²⁰No, ‘if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.’ ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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Morning Session – Focused on Relationship

Note for Leader: Today is going to be a great day. Morning session will not be a surprise but the afternoon session is designed like a “Dress Rehearsal” for a play. You may need a few extra minutes to practice or finish up the scripts before you put on your show(s). You are invited to make your presentations within your own group or link up with another nearby group. Pre-arrange with another group on what time and where you will meet. You only have 1 hour for your session so use your time wisely. Sunday morning time will include a chance to say goodbye with heavy focus on what individuals will be doing to put the Gospel into the movie known as their life.

Scene 7: Acting out the Movie

1. Light a candle and announce that “God Is Here!”
2. Opening prayer time that begins with a casual "Check-in" from all gathered. (Like friends will do for one another)
3. Read one or both of the Scriptures for the day
4. Ask them to share what things they heard in the scripture story today? If needed read it again and repeat.
5. Share the starting story below*
6. Today ask the youth to share the following:
 - a. Have you ever had moments in your life when you have felt that one thing was coming to an end and out of that ending came a new start or a new beginning?
 - b. Have you ever felt like you had a teacher who was trying to teach you to do something with your life? Who? Tell the story?
 - c. Have you ever felt new starting points in your faith life? How did you know?
 - d. What gifts or traits do you think you have that contribute to the faith community talked about in Scripture?
 - e. What kind of things “Evil in Scripture” can get in the way of using our gifts or even recognizing our gifts?
 - f. What or why would someone not want to use his/her own gifts or not want to begin the next story? Why would the church not want to move on to the next story? Why would you not want to turn the page?
 - g. What is the next story? What do you understand God wants you to live out in your life? What is that Movie for your life?
 - h. If you could accomplish just one thing in your life what would it be? What would you like people to remember about you?
7. Thank the group for their willingness to share their stories
8. Close in prayer

*Starting Story:

From “Mr Magorium’s Wonder Emporium”:

Mahoney Says, “I’m not ready for it to end!”

Mr Magorium says “I’m Sorry... When King Lear dies in act 5 do you know what Shakespeare has written?

‘He Dies.’

That’s all, nothing more, no fanfare, no metaphor, no brilliant final words. The culmination of the most influential work of dramatic literature is ‘He Dies.’ It takes Shakespeare, a genius, to come up with ‘He Dies.’ And yet every time I read those two words I find myself overwhelmed with dysphoria. And I know it is only natural to be sad but not because of the words he dies but because of the life we saw prior to the words... I’m not asking that you be happy that I must go.

I am only asking that you turn the page, continue reading, and let the next story begin.

And if anyone ever asks what became of me you relate my life and all its wonder and end it with a simple and modest ‘He Died’”

“Your life is an occasion... Rise To IT!”

Scene 8: The Premier of the Movies

1. If needed finish your scripts and practice your creations. They don't have to be perfect. Continue to encourage them to have fun with it.
2. Perform the movies/plays/skits/dances together with your whole group or gather with another group near by.
3. Close your time together in prayer giving thanks for the Scripture stories that have been passed on to us in the Book and for the stories we now share with each other.

Sunday, July 27th –Reel to Real Life Or The Story is in You

- 8:30am – 9:30am Family Groups

James 2: 14-26

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Scene 9: The Next Chapter:

1. Light a candle and announce that "God Is Here!"
2. Opening prayer time that begins with a casual "Check-in" from all gathered. (Like friends will do for one another)
3. Read one or both of the Scriptures for the day
4. Ask them to share what things they heard in the scripture story today? If needed read it again and repeat.
5. Share the starting story below*
6. Today ask the youth to share the following (Beginning with the last two questions
7. from yesterday):
 - a. What is the next story? What do you understand God wants you to live out in your life? What is that Movie for your life?
 - b. If you could accomplish just one thing in your life what would it be? What would you like people to remember about you?
 - c. Where would God be in this story? How would you know God was there? What stories would be in that book of the Bible if it told your story with God?

d. What would you give up to make this dream come true?

e. What would you not give up?

f. Who would you turn to for help to put your faith into action?

g. How would the movie that you live out change the world?
Dream big,
don't be afraid
to stun the
world.

7. Note this time that there is not really an ending to this story. Thank the group for their time here and the part of the movie that we made together in this place.

8. Close in prayer

***Starting Story:**

From "Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium":

Eric who is nine and willing to do anything to help his friend Mahoney save the store (The Wonder Emporium) meets with his other friend (who in the movie is understood to be a cross between a counter and Mutant – He is known as the Mutant) to convince him that he can buy the store himself.

Eric: I'm here to make you a substantial offer for the store.

Mutant: What?

Eric: Although I am not able to offer the full amount and I am nine. I think you may be interested in my proposal. **The following simply states that I can offer Mahoney a down payment of 237 dollars in pennies, nickels, dimes and a Christmas check from my grandma. And then I am willing to pay you my allowance and a hefty percentage of the stores profit on a weekly basis.** Keep in mind that my age works as a benefit as it means that I have more weeks left in my life than the typical buyer. Which means more allowances.

Mutant: Why are you doing this?

Eric: I want to get into the real estate game. Flip a few properties, make my mark on the city. The only thing we can invest in is the future ...

Mutant: Eric Stop.

Eric: I don't want someone else to have the store. Alright. I'll throw in my hat collection.

Mutant: Don't through in your hat collection.

Eric: There has to be something, Please! She is about to make a terrible mistake Mutant. I can't let her do that. As my friend, Help Me, Please!