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Introduction



The Three Questions

Question #1

How Many Movies Do You Watch in a Week?

How many movies, on average, do you watch in a week? Have you ever really thought about it? There are nearly unlimited movie choices today, in many different genres: major Hollywood hit blockbusters, edgy and trendy independent films, action/adventure, romance, westerns, science fiction, horror, mystery/suspense, comedy, drama, and documentary. And it seems like there are a gazillion more choices every day! Do you realize that even if you watched one movie a day for a year, you wouldn't be able to watch all the movies that are released this year? Movies, movies everywhere. How many do you watch in a week?

Now before you answer, don't just think about the movies you've seen while sitting in the plush, comfortable seats of a state-of-the-art movie theater with a warm bucket of golden buttery popcorn and an ice cold Cherry Coke[®]. Don't forget about the movies you watch on TV, DVD, HD-DVD, Blu-ray[™], your computer, and even your video iPod[™]. Movies can be seen everywhere – from the neighborhood multiplex to the two-inch video iPod nano[™] screen.

I was at the dentist recently, and while he worked on my teeth, he put these “magic” goggles on me and I could watch pretty much any movie I wanted. No more trying to talk with his hands in my mouth. I was able to just sit back, relax, and enjoy the show. Movies are available on the go like

Pray about It

- Pray for how God might use this book in your life.

Talk about It

- Think about your favorite movies. What makes them your favorites?
- What do your favorite movies have in common? How are they different?
- Who do you tend to go to movies with? Do they know Jesus as Lord and Savior? How do you know for sure?
- What do you and your friends talk about after seeing a movie? Do you see how that conversation could become spiritual?

Live It Out

- Make a list of three friends who don't yet know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Would these friends be open to talking about spiritual things? Would they go to a movie with you? Pray regularly for these friends, and for opportunities to share the love of Christ with each of them.

Talking Pictures Example #1

As we left the darkened theater after seeing *The Dark Knight*, one thought was consuming my mind and I just had to say it. “Heath Ledger was incredible! The Joker stole the show!”

“Yeah!” agreed my friend Steve. “He was pure evil. I’ve actually read that it was this role that made him take the medication that eventually killed him. He was having nightmares from this role! Scary!”

“And the Joker didn’t really have any reason to be evil,” I added. “Nothing really motivated him to be that way – he just was.”

“No kidding! Good thing that’s just a movie. In real life, there’s always a reason someone turns out bad.”

“You really think so?” I wondered aloud, encouraging him to explain.

“Oh, yeah,” Steve replied. “Human beings are naturally good, and it takes a bad experience or a tragedy to turn them evil.”

“Huh,” I said thoughtfully, as if I was pondering what he had said. After a pause, I continued. “Well, I wish that was true, but I know plenty of people who just do evil stuff for no real reason. I wish people were naturally good. But when I see wars, abuse of power, enslavement, and poverty consuming the world, I’m not convinced that people are naturally good.”

“What do you mean?” Steve turned toward me, clearly interested in my statement. I began to realize that a window of opportunity was starting to open up. You see, Steve wasn’t a Christian, and I had always wanted to find a good time to work the topic of my faith into one of our

“Reeling” Them In

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)

The concept of being a “fisher of men” has always intrigued me. You see, I’ve never really had the patience to be a very good fisherman. When I was a kid, I always imagined fishing to be a lot more fun than it really was. I expected to drop a line into the water and then just pull out one fish after another. I assumed that all you had to do was show up, and the fish would practically jump into the boat by themselves. But in reality, fishing requires a great deal of patience. I would get antsy waiting for what seemed like an eternity for the fish to finally take the bait. It’s easy to get bored after awhile and give up when nothing seems to be happening. Of course it’s exciting when you finally get a tug on the line, but reeling it in requires skill and even more patience. If you’re not careful, you’ll lose what you waited so long to achieve.

And now we’ve come to the point where we need to address the next step in our vocation as Evangelist/Translator. We’ve taken our friend to the movies, we’ve Talked Pictures, and we’ve shared how Jesus lives within our own story. Your friend is receptive to what you’re saying, and you know that this could lead to something greater. But where do you go from here? What’s next?

The conversation isn’t over. In fact, it’s just getting started! You have an opportunity before you to help nurture and guide someone toward faith and salvation in Christ Jesus. That’s very exciting, but it might also feel a bit overwhelming. You may think that bringing them to faith is now your responsibility, and you’re worried that you might fail. Remember, though, it’s not really up to you. We know that