

ASBURY AT THE MOVIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 July 23, 2023
"Forrest Gump"



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come before You, offering our thanks for bringing us together safely. As we prepare for this study, we ask that You would be with us. May our thoughts be led by You, and our conversations be inspired by You. Help us to put our own agendas to the side, and seek Your will and outcome for this meeting. Please grant us wisdom in times of uncertainty, and clarity in times of confusion. Lead us to solutions, and help strengthen us as a group. In Jesus' name, amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

John 13:34 (NIV)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

Luke 12:13-21 (NIV)

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

¹⁶And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'"

¹⁸"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

²⁰"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

²¹"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Matthew 18:2-3 (NIV)

²He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 July 23, 2023
“Forrest Gump”

INTRODUCTION

Forrest Gump is a 1994 movie based on the 1986 novel of the same name written by Winston Groom. The movie tells the story of Forrest Gump, a very kindhearted man with a low IQ. The film follows several decades of his experiences in 20th century America. So where does the movie point us toward scripture?

Forrest’s mother says “Life is like a box of chocolates. you never know what you are going to get.” We are all faced with various experiences in life that require us to make decisions. The underlying question to any decision we make is: “What does love require of me?” Forrest seems to always do the most loving thing and so should we. Despite his disability, Forrest is the one who redeems the lives of those he interacts with. As Jesus followers, we should do the same for others in our sphere of influence.

QUESTIONS

1. Have you watched the movie *Forrest Gump*? What are your thoughts on the movie?
2. Forrest’s mother says “Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get.” What do you think about this statement? How is life like a “box of chocolates” for you?
3. In the movie *Forrest Gump*, Forrest promises his friend Bubba that he will go into the shrimp business with him after the war is over. Even though Bubba died in the war, Forrest kept his promise and started the shrimp business. How important is it to you for you to keep your promises? Why?
4. In the movie *Forrest Gump*, Lt. Dan invested Forrest’s money from the shrimp business in Apple Computer (Forrest calls it a “fruit company.”) Forrest gives a lot of his money to the church and a hospital because “Mama says there's only so much fortune a man really needs and the rest is just for showing off.” Read Luke 12:13-21 (on page 1). What stands out to you in this passage?
5. Read Matthew 18:2-3 (on page 1). What stands out to you about this passage? What point is Jesus trying to make? How does it relate to the movie *Forrest Gump*?
6. In the movie *Forrest Gump*, Forrest is asking the age-old question, “Is life following a predetermined course or is it arbitrary?” How would you answer Forrest?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one loving thing you can do for someone this week? How can the group help you?