

ASBURY AT THE MOVIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 4 August 30, 2023
"Beauty and the Beast"



OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we come before You today humbled and grateful for all that You've done for us. We ask that You would bless our time together as we seek to know You more. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 25:34-40 (NIV)

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (NIV)

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!

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INTRODUCTION

Beauty and the Beast is a 1991 animated Disney movie based on a 1740 French fairy tale of the same name. The movie focuses on the relationship between the Beast, a prince who is magically transformed into a monster and his servants into household objects as punishment for his arrogance, and Belle, a young woman who lives in a small French village. So where does this movie point us toward scripture?

Like the Beast, we are all people in need of transformation. We may not have turned away an old lady on a stormy night, but each one of us, at some point, has chosen hate over compassion and selfishness where love is called for. Like the Beast, we need to learn humility and love. Through the Beast's love for Belle, and Belle's love for him, the curse of his past sins was broken and the prince was given a second chance at life. We have been given a second chance at life through the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ and when we surrender to Him, our lives are transformed.

QUESTIONS

1. Have you watched the movie *Beauty and the Beast*? What are your thoughts on the movie? In what ways do you see yourself in the character of the Beast?
2. Belle agrees to take Maurice's place as the Beast's prisoner in exchange for her father's freedom. Do you think you would have made the same choice as Belle if you were in her shoes? Why or why not?
3. Read Matthew 25:34-40 (on page 1). According to this scripture passage, in what ways can we demonstrate a love for strangers? Can you think of additional ways?
4. The Beast decides to let Belle to go so she can be with her father, even though this would almost certainly seal his fate that he would remain a Beast forever. Do you think if you were in the Beast's position, you would have been able to let Belle go?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (on page 1). The word "love" is replaced with the Greek word *agape*. *Agape* love is sacrificial love. Does this passage describe the *agape* you have for others? Or does it highlight areas where your *agape* needs to improve?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 (on page 1). Through the Beast's love for Belle, and Belle's love for him, the curse of his past sins was broken and the prince was given a second chance at life. Jesus gives us a second chance at life through his death on the cross. Do you feel that this scripture passage describes your life? Why or why not?

FINAL APPLICATION

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