



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 July 14, 2024
"Oppenheimer"



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this study. Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Fill us with your grace Lord Jesus. It's in his name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV)

⁵*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

⁶*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

⁷*rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

⁸*And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

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INTRODUCTION

The movie *Oppenheimer* follows the life of J Robert Oppenheimer, a theoretical physicist known as the father of the atomic bomb. *Oppenheimer* is more than a biographical movie; it is a movie about the human condition because it points to the fact the we are all seeking a way to control the world around us. The question the movie is asking is this: “If you had the power of life and death in your hands, how would you use it?” That’s the predicament Oppenheimer found himself in. So as Christians, how do we respond when life is in the balance?

As Christians we believe that God is in control. By contrast, the world’s response is to just build bigger bombs and believe we will be in control when we have more power than anyone else. Christians believe that God came down in human form and emptied himself of power and extended love to us. And, therefore, he is worthy of our trust. We may never have the power to decide on dropping a bomb on millions of people, but we have to decide daily whether we trust God with the fears that we face. So, what’s the area of your life that you are trying to control?

QUESTIONS

1. Did you see the movie Oppenheimer? What are your thoughts on the movie?
2. What are some ways that God speaks to you? Do you listen for God’s voice when making major decisions in your life?
3. Do you think war is ever justifiable? If so, when?
4. Would you have made the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan? Why or why not?
5. Do you worry about nuclear war destroying the planet?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week, identify an area of your life that you are trying to control instead of trusting in God.