



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 4 July 28, 2024

"The Super Mario Bros. Movie"



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather today, enlighten our minds and stir our hearts. Help us to understand the scriptures and apply them to our lives. May Your Holy Spirit guide our study and deepen our faith as we seek to know You better. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

1 Samuel 17:39-40 (NIV)

David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

Psalms 56:3 (NIV)

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

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INTRODUCTION

The Super Mario Bros. Movie is a 2023 animated adventure comedy film based on Nintendo's Mario video game franchise. The film features an origin story for the brothers Mario and Luigi, Italian-American plumbers who are separated after being transported to a fantasy world and become entangled in a battle between the Mushroom Kingdom - led by Princess Peach - and the Koopas - led by Bowser. So what does this movie have to do with scripture?

The Super Mario Bros. Movie points us to the scriptural themes of brotherly and agape love, the importance of our identity in Christ, preparation for our spiritual journeys, and overcoming our giants. Sometimes in our lives we are confronted by giants like Bowser (debt, bad diagnosis, divorce etc.) And when we find ourselves overwhelmed with fear of these giants we need to remember the words of King David who defeated Goliath, “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”

QUESTIONS

1. Did you see the movie Super Mario Brothers? What are your thoughts on the movie?
2. What are some ways a church community can show brotherly love to each other?
3. Who labeled you during your formative years? Did that person or people mislabel you? If you were mislabeled, have you shaken those labels or do you still carry them around with you?
4. What are some things you do to help you grow in your faith?
5. When have you had to face a “giant” problem or person? What role, if any, did your trust in God play in the way you faced the daunting situation?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one step you can take this week to begin to tear off your incorrect labels and let your heavenly Father label you as he sees you? How can this group support you?