

ASBURY at the MOVIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 July 6, 2025
“Wicked”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with grateful hearts. Thank You for bringing us together as a small group to grow in faith, love, and community. We invite Your Holy Spirit to be present among us — to guide our thoughts, open our hearts, and draw us closer to You and to one another. Help us to listen well, speak with grace, and encourage each other as we examine where the movie *Wicked* points us toward scripture. May this time bring glory to You and deepen our walk with Christ. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Luke 4:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind to set the oppressed free.”

Proverbs 29:25 (NIV)

“Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.”

1 John 4:18 (NIV)

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

John 15:15 (NIV)

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

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INTRODUCTION

The movie *Wicked* is the story of Elphaba, a young woman with green skin, as she navigates life at Shiz University and forms an unlikely friendship with the popular Galinda. Their bond deepens as they encounter the Wizard of Oz, leading to a series of events that ultimately shape their destinies and transform them into the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good. So where does this movie point us toward scripture?

The movie *Wicked* speaks to our fear of the ‘other.’ Elphaba has been marginalized and made to feel less than others because of her skin color. In the gospels, Jesus befriends and comes alongside people who are made to feel small and we should too. The movie also speaks to the power that friendship has to transform us. The people we know should be better off because they know us. And the one friend who can totally transform your life is Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. Have you seen the movie *Wicked*? What are your thoughts on the movie?
2. What does the movie *Wicked* teach us about judging others? How does the story challenge our assumptions about good and evil?
3. Elphaba stands up for what she believes in, even when it costs her reputation. How does this reflect Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:10: “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake...”?
4. How is friendship portrayed, especially between Elphaba and Glinda? What does their relationship teach about love, unity, and reconciliation despite differences?
5. Can power corrupt? How is the theme of power and corruption addressed (e.g., the Wizard, institutions)? What warnings does the Bible give about pride and worldly ambition (e.g., Proverbs 16:18)?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to be the type of friend that makes someone better off because they knew you? How can this group help?