

Leader's Hints: The Film Description is for you, not to be read to the group because it will spoil the movie. The Discussion Focus should be presented to the group prior to watching the movie so they can know some of what to focus on. Allow the group immediately after the film to give their own casual assessment ("that was great" or "I didn't think it would end that way"). When the personal assessments have died out begin with the discussion questions. The biggest mistake most discussion leaders make is that they do not allow enough silence. Give people time to think it through. Give encouraging words after someone shares but avoid comments that designate their statements as "right" or "wrong". Encourage multiple answers to the same questions. Statements like, "That is really insightful, what does someone else think?" encourage others to expand on the answer. Be sure to read through the questions ahead of time and when personal examples are asked for think of one for yourself in case no one responds. When you are willing to share it really encourages others to open up. Be very careful to avoid sending the message to the group that you hold all the answers. The benefit of group discussion comes from the individual struggle to find truth for themselves not in the group landing on consensus. In other words, you may end up agreeing to disagree and that is fine. Keep the environment open and non-judgmental, we all come to truth in faith at our own speed. Allow some struggles to remain in the hands of the Holy Spirit. Please always end in a prayer.



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Despicable Me -2010, PG, Runtime 95 min.

Film Description : In a happy suburban neighborhood surrounded by white picket fences with flowering rose bushes, sits a black house with a dead lawn. Unbeknownst to the neighbors, hidden beneath this home is a vast secret hideout. Surrounded by a small army of minions, we discover Gru, planning the biggest heist in the history of the world. He is going to steal the moon. (Yes, the moon!) Gru delights in all things wicked. Armed with his arsenal of shrink rays, freeze rays, and battle-ready vehicles for land and air, he vanquishes all who stand in his way. Until the day he encounters the immense will of three little orphaned girls who look at him and see something that no one else has ever seen: a potential Dad. The world's greatest villain has just met his greatest challenge: three little girls named Margo, Edith and Agnes.

Discussion Focus: The importance of love and forgiveness

Content Advisory: for rude humor and mild actions

1. After a long day of selling cookies, Margo, Edith and Agnes kneel on their beds to pray. What does each of the children pray for? (Margo prays that God will watch over them and give them rest, Edith prays for protection, and Agnes prays for an adoptive family, with a mommy and a daddy that are nice – and a pet unicorn).

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18

How did God answer their prayers?

Do you think that God could have been near to them even if everything didn't turn out just the way they wanted?

2. Parents have a big effect on their children. How does Gru's mother treat him?

Do you think that how Gru was treated as a child had an effect on how he turned out?

3. In the Bible we are told that letting each other know that we are loved is very important.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

What do you think that verse means?

4. Gru could not change the parent that he had but the Bible tells us that we can choose to be a child of God.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1a

How does knowing that you are God's child and that He loves you help to make it easier when we don't feel love from other people?

5. Why did Gru get the three girls and bring them to his house in the first place?

When did Gru decide that he loved the girls and he wanted to be a good father?

6. The Bible says that even if we have been doing things in the wrong way if we ask God to forgive us we can always decide we want to do them in the right way from now on.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Why is it such a gift that God allow us to be forgiven when we do things wrong and to start over again?