

### At The Movies- Instant Family

*We all want to make a difference but are we willing to do the hard work of continuing to show up and give our best no matter the outcome? In the stressful and tense moments of life, what's the secret to staying engaged for the pay off that waits on the other side of our hardships?*

#### **Conversation Starter: Pick one of the questions below to get started-**

- What is something you quit? Was quitting positive or negative in that circumstance?
- Describe a reward you received for hard work or a job or an assignment you did well.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

**Question 1:** Describe a time you set off to do something meaningful that didn't turn out the way you expected?

**Question 2:** What ways were the Wagner's tempted to give up on their foster parenting efforts in *Instant Family*?

**Question 3:** How does the gap between what we expect and what we experience affect our drive and determination for doing good?

- **Read Galatians 6:9-10**

**Question 4:** What have you been tempted to throw in the towel on lately? What's at stake if you give up?

**Question 5:** Do you believe that there is a pay off for your persistence even when the outcomes don't shape up the way you hoped they would? How does that align with Paul's, "you get what you plant," principle?

**Question 6:** We can't control outcomes, but we can control our outlooks. What is something you can do this week that will keep you from growing weary and staying engaged in doing the good you set out to do?

#### **Next Steps:**

- **Look to the source:** You don't have what it takes on your own. Keep pursuing Jesus, and he will give you the strength you need to not give up but to keep pushing forward.
- **Connect in community:** When you feel like giving up, remember some people are for you and won't share your burden, so you don't check out prematurely.
- **Envision the future:** God wants us to trust Him. When you are ready to quit, ask, "God, what are you trying to produce in me today that will serve me tomorrow"?

#### **Prayer:**

God, thank you for always keeping your promises. Even though we can't change our circumstances, we can continue to make choices that please you. Please help us to keep from becoming discouraged as we follow you and try to do good in the world around us. Keep what hangs in the balance of our obedience to you at the forefront of our minds!