

# AT THE MOVIES

## MESSAGE BASED QUESTIONS

### At the Movies- Week 1

*You probably don't usually look to movies for life lessons, but take our word for it—sit back, relax, and hear a different perspective on how popular films can tell us how to live the best life.*

### Conversation Starter:

- What is your all-time favorite movie and why?
- Do you prefer to watch movies in silence or are you someone who wants to talk about the film in real-time?

### Watch:

- ATM Bonus Feature- Week 1

### Discussion Questions:

1. P.T Barnum was a dream-chaser. Who are some other individuals who have made history as a result of their dreams? (*Hint: Think people like the Wright Brothers, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Martin Luther King Jr., Steve Jobs, etc.*)
2. We all have dreams and goals. What are some of those ambitions you've hoped for, or are still looking to accomplish?

### • Read Ecclesiastes 2:9-11

3. As you hear the words of Solomon, do you agree with his assessment of success or is he just being overly dramatic? What could cause someone who seemingly has it all to feel so unfulfilled?
4. Barnum was looking to fill the void of rejection with success. What are some common voids people are seeking to fill and what do they use to try to fill them?
5. If we are honest, we all want to experience success. So, how can we pursue our dreams without being defined by our victories or failures? (*Hint: We have to find our identity in something that is rooted and unchanging.*)

### Next Steps:

- This week, take some time to examine your ambitions. Ask yourself, "Am I looking to accomplish this goal for the right reasons, or am I looking to fill an emptiness inside?"
- Identify the voids you are seeking to fill with your dreams. Ask God to fill the emptiness instead.

### Prayer:

Psalm 139:23-24 says, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life." Pray that God would help you identify the ways you are looking for fulfillment. Ask for the courage and peace to chase your dreams without wearing the weight becoming what defines your identity.

## Weekly Challenge:

It's way too easy to lose sight of all the things that are going right in our lives because we're so focused on what we're lacking. If we're not careful, in the pursuit of our dreams, we can overlook and undervalue all that we have been given and begin to take it for granted.

P.T. Barnum fell into this trap. In the pursuit of making a name for himself (one he hoped would provide worth and acceptance) he almost lost the people who loved him unconditionally.

### **We're all prone to focus on what's next instead of taking time to express gratitude for what we already have.**

That's why Paul reminds Timothy a young church leader and Jesus follower:

“True godliness with **contentment** is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be **content.**”

For this week's challenge, take time to talk to God each day. Share a simple thank you with Him each day.

God, today I'm grateful for \_\_\_\_\_.

Pick something different each day. Don't be afraid to chase down big dreams, but don't lose sight of the blessings in the process.

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## Share It:

Want to enjoy a movie with your peeps? Each week of the series we'll pick a new group or family to enjoy a night out to the movies, all you have to do is follow the instructions below to be entered for your chance to win.

1. Take a few minutes right now and write down something you are grateful for on a piece of paper. Make it big and bold.
  2. Holding your papers, grab a picture with your group!
  3. Share the image on Twitter or Instagram and use the hashtag #StrongerTogether and #LCBCAtTHEMovies.
  4. Stay tuned. We'll announce the winners each Friday, so be sure to check out our social accounts!
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