



## **At The Movies - Week 2**

### **December 7-8, 2019 | Tim Harlow**

This weekend, Pastor Tim continues our At The Movies series with a classic. A Charlie Brown Christmas!

#### **CELEBRATE**

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

#### **CONNECT**

1. Talk about an item or toy you couldn't leave the house without or be without as a kid. Maybe it was a Teddy Bear or a blanket... share what it was for you.
2. Share a household Christmas item or decoration that is your favorite to put out this time of year. Why is it your favorite?

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

## REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, take a moment and review the key points from this weekend's message.

1. "Little things we say and do in Christ's name are like pebbles thrown into water, the ripples spread out in circles, and influence people we may know only slightly and sometimes not at all." Charles Schulz
2. The angels announced that Jesus' birth would bring peace to all people.
3. Following Jesus means letting go of our *blanket*.

**SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE:** Luke 2:8-14

## RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that resonated with you. What made it stick with you?
2. This weekend, Pastor Tim unpacked Charle Brown's story for us. Talk about a Christmas you had that was sort of like Charlie Brown's - where things just didn't seem to go your way or when you couldn't quite see the true meaning of Christmas.
3. Read Matthew 16:24-27. Read slowly and out loud, if possible. This passage comes to us from Jesus as an adult, no longer in the manger. Note that Jesus says the Son of Man will come back to this world with God's angels - kind of like how He first entered at the first Christmas.
4. Pastor Tim highlights Linus' blanket in the movie. His character held on to a blanket for security. In your life today, talk about a couple of things that you can sometimes hold on to (career, relationships, etc.) for security or control.
5. When Linus dropped his blanket, it resembles what Jesus was talking about in Matthew 16... laying down our life and things of this world for Him. Linus' blanket-drop moment is kind of like us laying down our security blanket for the cross. Talk about a time you did something like Linus - where you dropped something for Jesus.
6. Name something that you feel is the *blanket* God is calling you to let go of this Christmas season. Talk a little bit about why. How could the knowledge of God's peace help you in dropping it?
7. The rhythms of a small group included Connecting and Sharing with those in and outside of our group. Take some time and think about a person or two you could invite into your group, or time together, this holiday season.

## Closing Prayer:

God, thank you for laying down your life for us. We know we don't deserve the great love and sacrifice you made for us, but we humbly accept it as we seek to follow your Son. We remember why this holiday season exists - as it's all because of you. Help us put you first this season, and every season, as we lay down our life for your Son, just as He did for us. It's in His name that we pray...

Amen.