

NEW HEIGHTS

DISCUSSION

AT THE MOVIES

“Saving Mr. Banks” Life Group Discussion

Big Idea

Walt Disney surely didn't expect that his promise to his kids to make a movie of their favorite book would turn out to be such a challenge. It took twenty years simply to get an audience with the author of Mary Poppins, Mrs. Travers. That should have been his first clue. He and his team worked hard to win her over with their vision for the story to come to the silver screen, but Mrs. Travers was exceedingly difficult. Saving Mr. Banks isn't just a movie about how Walt finally won over the sharp witted Mrs. Travers; it's bigger than that. It's a story about making peace with the past, healing, and forgiving each other. Forgiveness. Redemption. Taking the hard and ugly pain of the past and making something beautiful of it all—this is what Walt and Mrs. Travers both wanted to do with their stories. And it's the very thing God wants to do with ours—God, the “author and perfecter of our faith”.

Read

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Isaiah 43:18-19 But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

Philippians 3:13-14 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Little About Me

Share about your favorite Disney movie and why?

Discussion

- Take some time and discuss some characteristics of Mrs. Travers and Walt Disney. After you discuss, share who you tend to connect with right now, and why.
- After reading the above verses, which one speaks to you the most and why?
- Discuss the statement, “forgiving someone won't change the past, but it can change your future.”
- Jesus has forgiven all of us of much, how can remembering the grace of God's forgiveness help us to forgive other people? What is one thing we can do daily that will remind us of God's grace?
- What are some ways you need to begin to trust God more with your story?

Prayer Focus

Pray for anyone that has hurt you and you have not yet forgiven. Take your hurt to God and ask Him to change your heart.

Next Step

Ask the Lord what your next step needs to be to truly surrender the hurt and unforgiveness to Him. Perhaps it's taking the step of praying for that person sincerely or maybe it's writing a letter or making a phone call. In your time of prayer truly seek the Lord for your next step so that you can forgive and be set free.

Leader Tip

Offer a time of prayer for anyone that is currently dealing with a situation that needs prayer. During the next week, send an email or text of encouragement to your group and include a verse or two that you find helpful on forgiveness.