

# onechurch

bigIdea small group discussion



The dream that you are basing your life around—is it for real? Getting a bigger house. Buying a faster car. Getting the promotion and social status. Are these goals and dreams worth spending 70 years pursuing, only to wake up and realize that you have wasted your life? In our first part of our *At the Movies* series, we're going to take a hard look at what's real and what isn't.

**BIG IDEA:** Transformed thoughts lead to a transformed life.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you had to dream up the best plan for your life, what would it look like?
2. Do you believe any one else besides you could come up with a better plan for living your life? Why or why not?
3. *Read John 10:10 and Jeremiah 29:11.* Why do we put our own plans and dreams above God's plans and dreams? Do you feel most people really believe these verses that God wants the best for us? Why or why not?

*God wants us to really live. God wants us to have not just life, but a real, abundant life. Not just to experience a dream, but a life that is real and more than we can ever dream of. God wants us to not waste our life, but really live.*

4. *Read Genesis 2:15-17.* Who did God give this command to: Adam or Eve? Do you think Adam shared this information with Eve? How does this impact the fact that the man is to be the spiritual leader of the home and share with his spouse what God has said?
5. *Read Genesis 3:1-7.* Why did God command Adam & Eve not to eat from the tree?
  - a. To give them a choice
  - b. They weren't mature enough
  - c. God desired all of the knowledge for Himself
  - d. The fruit was bitter
6. Do you think God's command for them not to eat from the tree was because He wanted to keep something *from* them, or wanted something *for* them? How do people see God commands today—keeping something *from* or wanting something *for*?
7. Compare Eve's explanation of God's command found in *Genesis 2:15-17*. Is it accurate? Why or why not? Why is adding to God's Words just as bad as taking away from God's Words?
8. *Read Genesis 3:1-5.* The first *Inception* happened here. How did Satan plant doubt in Adam & Eve's mind?

*Satan plants lies in our minds, and from our minds come our actions. That one half-truth that Satan planted in Adam and Eve's mind changed everything. A corrupted idea was planted and incepted.*

9. Satan rarely feeds us outright lies, but twists truth so that it's not quite truth but not a bold-face lie. How has twisted truth impacted your decisions and your life in the past?
10. *Read Romans 12:1-2.* As a teenager, how did the pressure from your friends affect the way you dressed? Where you hung out? How you Talked? Does peer pressure end when you become an adult? Do you think peer pressure is more difficult for teenagers today? Why or why not?
11. How does Romans 12:1 shed light on what true worship looks like?

*We think of worship as something we do on a Sunday morning. When we sing a song. When we lift our hands. When we go to church. But that isn't worship. Worship is taking your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and living that life for God.*

12. How does the world squeeze you into its mold? What pressure points seem strongest to you right now?

## THINK ABOUT IT

You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you. Satan *incepts* our thoughts and plants lies that we base our life around. So if we're going to really experience life the way God intended it, we have to change the way we think. The battle begins and ends in our minds.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

We must incept God's Word into every area of my life, allowing God to plant thoughts into our minds. You and I need daily, repeated exposures to truth of the Scriptures, as shown with the hand diagram. Each finger represents a different method: *hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating*.

How about you today? Where do you stand? Will you make time, like this last person, to replace those old thought patterns with new ones? Will you confront conformity and resist becoming like everyone else around you? Will you give yourself daily to God in response to his mercy to you?



## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Do not let the world squeeze you into its mold, but instead let yourself be transformed by the renewing of your mind.* Romans 12:1-2

