

Film School

The Dark Knight// group Questions

The opening shot. The set-up. The characters build and the plot wraps up. Roll credits. That's a typical film experience. But it also could be true of a lifetime. Movies are entertaining but they can also be life-changing. What can the big screen show you about your life? This series will help us uncover God's unchanging truth from the scenes of four very different movies.

Walk Away Point: Things that are beyond your control don't have to determine who you become.

Leaders: Choose questions from these suggestions to help your group process, personalize, and take action on this week's message. Don't feel like you need to do them all and try not to read from the sheet.

Icebreakers:

1. Who's your favorite superhero or comic character? What do you like or dislike about Batman?
2. How would you describe the "cards you were dealt"—the stuff in your life you can't control?

What do I think?

1. What did you think about the pasts of the three main people in this message: dark like The Joker, tragic like Bruce Wayne, or unfair like Joseph? In what ways could you relate to them?
2. Which out-of-control things in your life have the most control over your attitudes and actions?
3. What could make someone become like The Joker?
4. Bruce Wayne chose to believe in good, self-control, hope, life, and purpose. How much do you think your inner beliefs determine the person people see on the outside?

What does God say?

1. Where do you turn when life is pushing you to your limits? What role can God's truth and the Bible play when your life is out of control?
2. The Joker believes that people can only be as good as the world allows them to be. Read what Jesus said in John 16:33 NIV. *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* Deep down, do you believe there are some things Jesus can't handle?
3. Better than just a Savior who lived 2,000 years ago, Jesus made a way for God to live in us and work through us. Read 1 John 4:4 NIV. *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.* How can having that power in your life help you overcome the cards you were dealt?

What steps will I take?

1. What are you going to do about that one thing you can never seem to stop struggling with? Pray together as a group for each other's struggles.

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2. How will you use your story to save lives? How will you let it fuel you in a positive way?

Group Challenge:

One of the greatest stories of overcoming the cards you've been dealt is the Old Testament's Joseph. Start as a group by going over the story set up mentioned in the video from Genesis chapter 37. Then commit as a group to read a chapter each day from Joseph's story. Text, call, or email your students each day to assign and discuss the following chapters from Joseph's story: Genesis 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, and 50.