

Captain America Family Movie Night

Best Use

As a movie night and discussion for parents with their teens

Spiritual Value

Meaningful dialogue about heroic character

Advance Preparation

- Rent or purchase the movie Captain America (Rated PG-13) Like most films, this movie includes inappropriate language and some offensive themes. (You might consider buying a service like clearplay.com that edits out language and offensive scenes.)
- Pop some popcorn and have the discussion guide on the reverse side ready.

Instructions

- Be up front with your teen, explaining that you want to watch the film to discuss its themes from a Christian perspective. Don't use this as an occasion to teach, but to enjoy some good dialogue. You probably won't agree on everything, which is fine. Just discussing the themes can strengthen your relationship and stretch critical thinking skills.

Film Synopsis

During World War II most able-bodied American men were volunteering to defend freedom by fighting the Nazis, including Steve Rogers. But Steve was too small and thin for the armed forces to accept. Then a scientific experiment turned him into "a new breed of soldier" called Captain America. With a larger body and super-human strength, Steve Rogers gives the world's meanest bullies what they deserve. This sometimes funny, sometimes inspiring action film affirms the priority of being a good man over being a dangerous warrior.

Discuss It

QUESTION: Describe Steve Rogers' life at the beginning of the story. Would you call him successful? A failure? What is the driving desire of his heart? How does he want to make an impact? (See "A" below)

QUESTION: When asked if he wants to kill Nazis Steve says "I don't want to kill anyone. I don't like bullies, no matter where they're from." What does Steve's response to bullies reveal about his character? (See "B" below)

QUESTION: Steve's mentor tells him that the serum amplifies what is already within a man. What did it say about Steve when he threw himself on a grenade? (See "C" below)

Think about It

A) Steve Rogers illustrates the courage of many real-life men and women who have been willing to sacrifice their own freedom and safety for others. Read 2:4-8. How does Steve's attitude echo the attitude of Christ as described by the Apostle Paul?

B) Read 2 Timothy 1:7. Courage in the face of danger honors God and reflects His nature rather than fearful self-preservation.

C) Read John 15:13. It is when we willingly give our lives for and to others that we reflect great love and noble character.