

# Dinner and a Movie

## Best Use

As a family activity with any age

## Spiritual Value

Good conversation around the movie of your choice. This is a great way to bring up specific subject matters that you may want to discuss.

## Advance Preparation

- Pack a picnic dinner or order in some of your family's favorite food.
- Rent a movie or choose a family favorite to watch together that's appropriate.
- Make tickets for the movie or have the kids make their own tickets to sell. (Let them have fun deciding the cost, such as 3 hugs and 1 kiss)
- Set up an area to eat and watch the movie together with pillows, drinks, food, popcorn, etc.

## Instructions

**SAY:** During dinner, say you have something amazing to share. . . "I had stacked the plates, napkins and silverware on the table for dinner, but we left the window open and the wind blew through and set the table!"

**ASK:** "Do you believe me? What if I said that our meal cooked itself and all the ingredients were measured, mixed and baked with no one's help. Would you believe me?"

Depending on your children's age, you can continue to develop this line of reasoning (i.e., "So even if you didn't see the table being set, how do you know a person did it? Can tables set themselves?" etc.)

**DISCUSS:** "Do things we use in the world (cars, buildings, computers, etc.) **ever design** themselves without a person(s) involved? What can we learn from this?" (i.e., Design points to a Designer)

**SHARE:** Bring out the examples you selected and talk about their intended purpose. If using the blocks, you can stack them in an orderly fashion and ask, "Suppose you hadn't seen me stack these, but just walked into the room and saw them on the table. Would you ever think that they stacked themselves?"

**OPTIONAL:** Discuss other examples, such as the complexity of DNA, the way our body can repair itself after we've skinned our knee, or the planets and stars (maybe even go outside and look at them).

**READ:** Read Psalm 19:1 together: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

**DIG DEEPER:** Romans 1:18-20 also teaches this principle. Read it and discuss with older kids.

**PRAY:** Pray together: "Thank you, Lord, that we can see you in the beauty of the world you made, from a lovely sunset to an intricate leaf or a tiny cell. Everything points to a wonderful Creator. Thank you for our time together. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen."

## Instructions

**SAY:** "We are going to have a special night at the movies, only a little different."

**OPTIONAL:** You might want to load up in the car and drive around the block to return at your home and show them in to the fun dinner/movie theatre you have created. You can do this as a surprise for the kids or have them help and do it as a surprise for dad or another member of the family. Kids can also make drive-in-cars out of large boxes. Have fun, be creative and have a good time together.

**DO:** Watch the movie while you eat dinner together.

**TALK:** After the movie is over, spend some time talking through the following questions:

- Who is the central character? (The "hero")
- Who or what does the main character want? (Conscious and subconsciously?)
- Who or what are the obstacles that must be overcome?
- What was the "ultimate conflict" of the drama?
- What wrong choices were made?
- What right choices were made?
- Can we learn anything from the story?

**PRAY:** Thank God for your meal and fun time together as a family. Pray together: "We thank you, Lord, that you have blessed us with our family. Thank you for our time together tonight. Help us to grow closer to each other and to you. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen."