



At the Movies Your Endgame

#npatthemovies

Week 1
1 of 5

June 23, 2019

Bottom Line: Our lives are part of a bigger story that leads to the “endgame.” God’s Word prepares us to win.

Icebreaker: Who is your favorite superhero? Why? Who is your most memorable villain? Why?

Key Verse: *He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.* Ephesians 1:9-10

How many movies do you suppose have been made about the end of the world, the end of time? I checked, and pre-1950, there were only 4. But the proliferation of movies, plus the growing consciousness that the world cannot possibly survive forever as it is has made a huge change. There have been well over 300 apocalyptic movies created in the last 60 years, and over 100 of them have been in the last 10 years. Some of them are blockbusters and have earned the status of classic, to be watched repeatedly. There is something inside of us that tells us that people and the planet they live on were not created to live in this form forever. There is an “endgame.”

God’s Word records that He has shared that truth from the very beginning. He has told us that things as we know them now will not last forever. We know there will be an “endgame” where righteousness will triumph, and the people of God will overcome. Our powerful and faithful God has done everything necessary to prepare us to persevere and be ready “when the times reach their fulfillment.” He leaves no doubt that the world is dark, and we are battling a powerful spiritual enemy whom we can’t always see or understand. He has given us an armor, and without it we are extremely vulnerable. He has given us a protective shield of salvation that gives us the power to live victoriously. But I must access my strength through prayer. That is the source of my strength. As I walk with God daily, talking with Him, listening to Him, getting His direction, I receive the strength I need to overcome.

God has already written and directed the final scene. When His “endgame” takes place, there will be a new heaven and a new earth, and the people who have followed Him will find themselves victors, forever home in the place prepared for them by God Himself.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today’s message?

God put something inside of us so that we instinctively know our lives are part of a bigger plan and story. This life leads to the next life and eternity. Reflect. Discuss.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). What do you think this means?

Ephesians 6 says to put on the full armor of God in order to be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. The armor includes the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Which piece of the armor do you most often neglect to use? Which one do you use regularly?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

The shield of faith is both an offensive and defensive weapon. Discuss. What does that mean? How have you found it to be true? What are the “darts of the devil”? How does faith extinguish them?

The source of our strength is prayer: This is not a piece of spiritual armor yet is essential to winning spiritual battles. Prayer connects us to the power of God, which is necessary to defeat spiritual enemies. Communication in battle is often the difference between victory and defeat. This is especially true when referring to soldiers hearing the instructions of their commander. What does this say about the priority of talking to God daily?

Ephesians 6:18 also tells us to stay alert as we pray “on all kinds of occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.” What kinds of occasions tend to distract us from prayer?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Realize that our individual story is part of the big story, connected to each other.
- 2) Ask God to help you look toward the “endgame” with anticipation, not fear.
- 3) Each morning this week read the list of pieces in the armor of God, and consciously put them on to win the day.

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Our lives are part of a bigger story that lead to the “endgame.” God’s Word prepares us to win.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Ephesians 6:10-11,13-18

Tuesday: Ephesians 6:12

Wednesday: 1 John 4:4

Thursday: 1 Peter 5:8-9

Friday: Isaiah 54:17

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)