

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE DISCUSSION GUIDE

Mentorship & Living with Purpose

George is disheartened about how his life had turned out and certain that it would make no big difference if he had never been born. Clarence, the Angel who is seeking his wings, grants George his wish and, presto, George was never born. The moral, of course, is that George actually touched so many people in his life that without him, the world would be a lesser place. His existence, no matter how useless he thought it was, made a positive difference to a wide array of folks. Just like George, YOU make a difference in the lives of those around you. And just like Clarence the Angel, know for a fact that you have already received your wings for the difference YOU make in the lives of others as caregiver!

- What kind of topics does this movie address? *Purpose, suicide, : the values of basic goodness and sacrifice, the gift of friendship, the pitfalls of greed and commercialism, the sense of community and belonging that helps us feel truly connected in a society*
- What aging issues did this film make you aware of? *Looking back on life and how it was lived: You may not see it on this side of Heaven, but YOU make a positive difference to a wide array folks.*
- What was going on in history at this time? *1947 post WWII & Depression*
- What would you consider to be the main point of the story? Do you agree or disagree with that point? *This world would be a lesser place had your existence not have happened.*
- What is the significance of having this happen at the Christmas season? *Christmas is a difficult time for many (especially Seniors).*
- Who is the mentor in this story? *Clarence*
- Which character did you admire most? Why?
- What character is most like you? How?
 - George Bailey: broken dreams, responsible, compassionate, helpful
 - Tom: George's dad, concerned, hard worker
 - Mary Bailey: George's wife, concerned,
 - Harry Bailey: George's brother who does NOT want to run the family business
 - Clarence: angel trying to get his wings
 - Potter: owns most of the town, greedy, ruthless

- What might happen if you imitated the choices or behaviors of the people in this movie?

- BIBLE EXERCISE:
 - Bible Drill: Look up the following and read and talk about how they might relate to this movie:
 - *Jeremiah 29:11*, For I know the plans I have for you”—this is the LORD’s declaration—“plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.
 - *Romans 8:28*, We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose.
 - *John 16:33*, I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.

- Do you agree/disagree with this statement?
 - Try to focus on the positive instead of the negative
 - George, speaking to Potter about his day, People were human beings to him. But to you a warped, frustrated old man, they’re cattle. Well in my book, my father died a much richer man than you’ll ever be
 - At the end of the movie, Harry said, “A toast to my big brother George; The richest man in town.”
 - George to Mr. Potter: “You sit around here and you spin your little webs and you think the whole world revolves around you and your money. Well, it doesn’t, Mr. Potter...”
 - The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

- TAKE HOME
 - The moral is that George actually touched so many people in his life that without him, the world would be a lesser place. His existence, no matter how useless he thought it was, made a positive difference to a wide array of folks. Just like George, YOU make a difference in the lives of those around you.

- ACTION
 - Tell people DAILY how much you appreciate their contribution to: _____ (the family, the community, the church). Thank them for investing in your life. Let them know the difference they have made in your life.
 - Be a mentor and encourager! Adopt a grand-friend and invest in the life of a senior who is lonely and has invested in the lives of others.