

UNCLE NINO DISCUSSION GUIDE

Forgiveness

Rated PG: teen smoking, negative family tensions and disrespect all turn positive, “moron, sucks, crap” used by kids, “d__n, h__l” are used by adults in a scene

- What type of lifestyle had Nino lived in “the old country” of Italy? *Peasant, grew his own things, natural countryside, made his own wine, loved music & the violin*
- What was the lifestyle Nino came to in the American Micelli home? *Take-out food, processed food, manicured lawns, smoking teens, disconnected families*
- Who was Nino’s hero? *Abraham Lincoln*
- What common bond did Nino find with each family member?
 - Gina: *dogs*
 - Bobby: *music*
 - Marie: *food & cooking, wine*
 - Bobby: *his Italian family heritage*
- What would you consider to be the main point of the story? Do you agree or disagree with that point? *Possible answers include: It’s never too late to mend broken relationships; everyone has value no matter what their age or culture; making the important people in our lives a priority; everyone needs purpose; the most potent healers are love and forgiveness...*
- What virtues did you eventually see displayed in this movie? *Forgiveness, loyalty...*
- Which character did you admire most? Why?
- What character is most like you? How?
 - Nino: *love for family, music and food, takes responsibility, asks forgiveness, seeks restitution, humble, old-world charm*
 - Robert (dad) : *working for a promotion, trying to keep up with the house, anger bursts, bad moods, gone a lot with his job, stress is poisoning his family-life, eventually reconciles and changes his priorities and gives Nino the gift of forgiveness, understanding and purpose*
 - Marie (mom): *chauffer for kids, working, lonely, patient, gracious, forgiving*
 - Bobby (son): *loves music but gets hooked up w/a band of boys with questionable character, didn’t get along with father*
 - Gina (older daughter): *loves dogs but Dad won’t let her have one so she spends lots of time at a friend’s house*

- How do the morals onscreen compare with the values you've been learning at home, school or church? *Language, bad habits, friendships, family values*
- What might happen if you imitated the choices or behaviors of the people in this movie?
- Do the themes in this story really happen today? Give examples. *Parents' pull to work & maintain family relationships, minimal home-made meals and quality family time; not seeing the value in extended family relationships due to age difference or location; teen choices of friends and influence*
- Do you agree/disagree with these statements?
 - The most powerful healers are love and forgiveness
 - Make choices today that paint a brighter picture for tomorrow
 - Your friends will determine the direction and quality of your life
- BIBLE EXERCISE:
 - Bible Drill: Look up Proverbs 13:20, *He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.* What do you think this means?
 - Are there any other Scripture that come to mind with this movie?
 - *Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall.* Proverbs 16:18
 - Grief: *Those who mourn are blessed, for they will be comforted.* Matthew 5:4
 - *Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God.* 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 - Affluence: Parable of the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-30

ACTION:

- Invite an older relative to your home for a visit. See what you can learn from their culture and life experience. Find a way to connect with them. See their purpose and share your observation with them! Thank them for their contribution to the family.
- Re-evaluate your family relationships. Which ones do you need to work on? Where do you need to humble yourself and ask forgiveness? What do you need to take responsibility for?
- Music speaks to the soul and builds connection. How can your family participate? Does someone in the family play a musical instrument? Embrace their passion and support it!