

UP DISCUSSION GUIDE

- **What kind of topics does this movie address?** *our need for each other no matter our age, grief, fatherlessness, caring for others, loyalty, courage, friendship, self-centeredness, materialism, commitment, promises*
- **What would you consider to be the main point of the story? Do you agree or disagree with that point?** *Answers could include: Treasure people, not things; Honor your elders...*
- **Have you ever seen or heard about an elderly person using their cane for protection or as a weapon?**
- **Which character did you admire most? Why?**
- **What character is most like you? How?**
 - Ellie – adventurous, full of life and fun
 - Carl – *grouchy, promise-keeper, likeable, cane-weapon*
 - Russell – *buoyant, compassionate, courageous, problem-solver, a moral compass*
- **What aging issues did this film make you more aware of?** *Losing spouse, having to move from the home you've always had, giving up possessions that are wrapped with memories, regrets of not fulfilling life-long dreams, relating to the younger generation, living with purpose and adventure at any age*
- **A couple of retirement home workers come to take Carl away. What do you think that must feel like to be taken away from your home, its memories and your belongings?**
- **In what way(s) does Carl attempt to comfort himself after losing Ellie?** *He talks to her as though she is there...*
- **How does Carl try to hold on to the past?** *Staying tied to the house & all its belongings that have memories, wearing the Ellie badge...*
- **Ellie had a “Stuff I’m going to do” list – her dream list. How might this be good and not-so-good?**
- **What was the significance of Carl pinning the grape soda bottle cap to Russell’s sash?** *Ellie had made that & given it to Carl when they were kids.*
- **How do the morals onscreen compare with the values you've been learning at home, school or church?**

- **Do you agree/disagree with these statements?**
 - It's great to see the world, but spending time together as a family is equally if not more important.
 - It might sound boring, but I kinda think it's the boring stuff I remember the most.
 - He dreams beautiful dreams, and he's willing to fight the dogs of society to maintain them.
 - Some of our dreams go unfulfilled. Some of them are unfulfilling.

- **BIBLE EXERCISE:**

- **Bible Drill:** Look up Proverbs 20:29 *The glory of young men is their strength and the splendor of old men is their gray head.* 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
 - **Possessions:** Parable of the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-30
 - **Fatherless & Widows:** *Pure and undefiled religion before your God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.* James 1:27

ACTION:

- **Talk about a special heirloom in your family that has special meaning.**
- **Make a meaningful connection with a widow or widower:**
 - help with yard work,
 - play a game together,
 - prepare and/or share a meal together,
 - sit and listen to their stories,
 - Ask them what adventures they have had or would still like to have?
- **Create an *Assisting the Elderly* merit badge or an *Ellie Badge*!**