



# GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 3, 2023 | WEEK TWO - AT THE MOVIES

## WARM-UP QUESTION

What's your favorite Christmastime tradition?

## DISCUSS

Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Did you have any new insights or key takeaways?

Read [Mark 8:34-37](#)

- What phrases stand out to you in this text?
- Why would we need to give up our own ways to follow Jesus? How is He different than us? In light of the Gospel (the Good News), why is it important that Jesus is different from us?
- What does it practically look like to turn from our ways and follow Jesus? When have you done this successfully? If you haven't, what's holding you back?
- What is the harm in hanging onto your life? What images come to mind when you read this verse? What would it look like to give it up for Jesus' sake?

In the message, Aaron listed some potential things or circumstances we could be chasing instead of chasing after Jesus. If you identify with one of these, share it with your group and read the scripture next to it.

- **Money or things:** [Matthew 6:24](#) & [John 10:10](#)
- **Success:** [John 7:18](#) & [Matthew 5:5,8](#)
- **Comfort:** [John 16:33](#)
- **Empty relationships:** [Matthew 5:10-12](#)

Then, answer these questions:

- What about that verse resonates with you?
- What does Jesus offer that is different from what the world offers?
- If you lived fulfilled by Jesus, how would your life look different? Your relationships?

Read [Ezekiel 36:25-26](#)

- When you read these verses, what feelings come to mind? What words stand out to you?
- What does a stony heart look like? How is a tender heart different?
- Who is someone in the Bible who would have had a stony heart? Who is someone with a tender heart? Read their stories in the Bible and talk about the differences between the two individuals.
- Who is someone you know that you would describe as having a tender heart? What can you learn from them to apply to your life?



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## RESPOND

- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? When will you do it?
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals or areas of struggle that came up in your discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is, and ask Him to help you apply what He's prompting you to do this week.