

Short Film Familia Discussions

Destino with GSFN Films

“A picture is worth a thousand words,” they say. How much more so a video? You can ask a person, “What is your family like?” And they’ll have some things to say. But show them an old home movie—kids playing in the backyard, opening presents on Christmas, or everybody dancing at a *quince*—and ask them the same question, and they won’t stop talking!

That’s the thinking behind this familia discussion series: We’re using videos and short films to start conversations about some of the most important topics in our lives.

The videos all come from Global Short Film Network, a sister ministry of Destino. The goal of GSFN is “to help you discover a person’s story through the theme of the films. As you listen to their story, you can share your own and connect viewers to the person of Christ.” You can find them online at globalshortfilmnetwork.com. We have paired a selection of GSFN films with passages of Scripture to explore.

How to Use This Series

This discussion series can be used in a group of *literally* any size! While it was designed originally for a Bible study group of 8 or 10, you can use this with a discipleship or accountability group of just a handful, or even a large group weekly meeting, where the big group watches the films and then breaks up into smaller groups to discuss. You could wrap up a large group time like that with someone sharing for a couple

minutes, connecting their own experience with Christ to the themes in the film.

All you need each week are a *location* and *way to show the film* (a projector and screen, or a laptop or tablet if it’s a small group). If your group is small enough, you’ll have the best conversations in a living room with some snacks, instead of in a classroom sitting in rows under fluorescent lights. Just a word to the wise!

To Prepare Each Week

1. Spend time with your co-leader praying for your group.
2. Text members of your group and tell them you’re looking forward to seeing them, to remind them!
3. Download the film and make sure it plays and can be heard clearly.
4. Look over the discussion questions and Bible passage. Give it some thought so that you can help the conversation get going if people don’t jump in.

What follows is 19 weekly lessons, enough for two semesters, assuming some fun nights are thrown in. Each page consists of the video for that week, discussion questions, and the Bible passage (for most weeks).

La Búsqueda

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 1

Connecting over a film is more about listening and sharing. This is a great opportunity to start a spiritual conversation with someone who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus

Introducing the Discussion Series

Since this is the first week, introduce the series by saying: "This semester for our familia discussion we're going to be watching a video or a short film together each week. We'll discuss what we think of the film and how we relate. We'll also be looking at what the Bible has to say about the themes the films bring up."

This Week's Film—*La Búsqueda*

You can download the film for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

*Start by saying: "This week we'll be watching a short film called *La Búsqueda* together." [La Búsqueda means "the search" in Spanish.]*

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What one word comes to mind when you think of this film?
3. What barriers keep her from getting off the bus?
4. What is the daughter longing for? What is getting in her way?
5. If it had been your mom or dad, would you have gotten off the bus? Why or why not?

6. In the story, if the dad represents God, would you get off the bus for him? Why or why not?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: "In the Bible Jesus talks about how God searches for people who are lost. In Luke, one of the gospels (or books that records the life and teachings of Christ), he tells two stories about lost things.

Read Luke 15:1-10 by each taking turns reading a couple verses. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. Have you ever lost something important? What was it and how did you feel when it wasn't where it was supposed to be?
2. How do these two parables (or stories) relate to the film we just watched?
3. When we lose things, the problem is that we don't know where they are. But God knows everything right? So what does it mean for something to be "lost" from God?
4. What do you think it means for God to "search" for something he "lost"?

Note for leaders—Following Up

Take notice of who in the group is really interested and curious. Make an intentional effort to hang out with these people this week. Go eat lunch with them or invite them to go play basketball or something and continue the conversation you started tonight!

La Liberté de l'Interieur

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 2

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *La Liberté de l'Interieur*

You can download the film for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *La Liberté de l'Interieur* together.” [The title means “freedom within” in French.]

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What one word comes to mind when you think of this film?
3. Where did the man’s freedom come from?
4. What do you think would be more motivating to you, getting out of the box yourself or helping someone else get out? Why do you think this is so?
5. When or where have you felt trapped in an unchangeable existence?
6. Have you experienced this type of freedom before? Would you be interested in learning more about how you could?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “We’re going to read a passage from the book of Isaiah in the Bible. Here’s the context: the people of Israel, who used to be

slaves in Egypt, were set free by God and given a new way to live. After hundreds of years they had neglected the way God set up for them to live. They were actually about to become slaves again to another nation, Babylon! This passage is a prophecy about how God was planning on setting the people free once more.”

Read Isaiah 61 (the whole chapter) by each taking turns reading a couple verses at a time. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. There are many different ways to understand freedom. List some of the ways you see freedom in this passage.
2. The people were going to need literal freedom and restoration. Where do you see that in this passage?
3. The people were enslaved because of disobedience and sin, so they needed spiritual freedom as well. Where do you see spiritual freedom in this passage?
4. In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus quotes this passage, and then says, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your presence.” How do you think Jesus offers us freedom?

Note for leaders—A Closer Familia

Find another time when everyone in your group can get together this week to do something fun! Here are some ideas: Have pizza and watch a movie at your apartment; get together for lunch; kick around a soccer ball; bake cookies together!

CTRL-Z

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 3

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— CTRL-Z

You can download the film for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: "This week we'll be watching a short film called CTRL-Z together."

Questions for Discussion

1. What was your favorite moment in the film?
2. What one word comes to mind when you think of this film?
3. What do you think the film maker was trying to communicate with this film?
4. What motivates people to want to "redo" things in life?
5. What if you could start over from any point in your life and redo everything. How far back would you go?
6. How do you deal with these things you wish you could redo in life?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: "We're going to take a look at a passage in the Bible that deals with regret and mistakes we've made. A word the Bible uses to describe this is 'sin.' Whether it's things we've done, attitudes we've held, ways we've just fallen short, sin, or humanity's failed attempts to live without God, is at the root. This passage is in 1 John, one of the short letters that St. John wrote to a wide audience of Christians, 3 generations after Jesus' death and resurrection.

Read 1 John 1 (the whole chapter) by each taking turns reading a couple verses at a time. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. How would you sum up this passage?
2. Look at verses 5-7 and look how many times he says, "walk"—We've been talking about "going back to redo," but this is language of moving forward instead. Do you find it easy or hard to move forward with regret?
3. Look at verse 9. What does Jesus do with our sin, which is the source of so much of our regret? (Answer: "forgive," and "cleanse." Follow up question: Why both of these?)
4. What does Jesus require of us? (Answer: "confess your sins." Follow up question: Does this way forward make sense to you or not? How does this compare with the way we usually handle regret?)

Wrap up by praying together.

Note for leaders—Following Up

Take notice of who in the group is really interested and curious. Make an intentional effort to hang out with these people this week. Go eat lunch with them or invite them to go play basketball or something and continue the conversation you started tonight!

Another Note for leaders:

After the meeting, post this video on your Facebook timeline and ask people, "What would you undo in your life if you had the chance?" See what kind of response you have, and try to start some conversations with your friends that way, too! If people respond who are at your school or near you, try to hang out with them in real life and hear their thoughts!

Venia

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 4

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *Venia*

You can download the film for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *Venia* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What were some of the things the son wrote on the cards?
3. Did you notice that he waited to write the final notecard (I forgive you)? Why do you think he waited?
4. Why do you think so many people experience broken relationships in life?
5. Most people need to forgive, or receive forgiveness, in order to experience freedom. Would you say that is true of you as well? Why or why not?

Responding to a Heavy Theme

Next read this: “Forgiveness is a pretty heavy topic, because we know we need forgiveness for things in our lives. But also because things have

been done to us that may seem unforgivable. When Jesus tells us to forgive others, he doesn’t say it lightly. Forgiveness is costly: it is the canceling of a debt, absorbing the wrong, giving up the right to demand repayment. Jesus absorbed the wrong we had done, and it cost him what it should have cost us.”

“You may be familiar with the Lord’s Prayer, or the ‘Our Father.’ It’s Christ’s example of the attitude and content of our prayers. We’re going to wrap up our time by praying this prayer together. Pay special attention to what he says about forgiveness.” *You can find the Lord’s Prayer to pray together in Matthew 6:9-13.*

Important Note for leaders—Sensitivity

This film and discussion might have been pretty heavy, or brought up some things about people’s pasts. Be sensitive to that. You might need to spend some time outside of the group listening to people and hearing what God brought up during the discussion tonight. But those will be great opportunities to share about the forgiveness you’ve received from God and how that has changed how you look at people who have wronged you. You might read Matthew 18:21-35, the “Parable of the Unmerciful Servant,” to see what God’s Word has to say about the subject.

Awake

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 5

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *Awake*

You can download the film for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *Awake* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What one word comes to mind when you think of this film?
3. What differences did you observe between the people on the couch and the main guy in the film?
4. Why do you think so many people watch the lives of others and don’t do anything about it?
5. What are some of the things you can do to help others if they are struggling through life?
6. How would you feel if you were trying to help someone struggling with his or her existence and you were all alone?
7. Where do you find hope during hard times?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “We’re going to read a passage from one of St. Paul’s letters to a church he founded. As we you hear this passage, I want you to think

about this question: ‘What spiritual truth about Christ changes the way should see people and the world around us?’”

Read 2 Corinthians 5 (the whole chapter) by each taking turns reading a couple verses at a time. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. Can anyone sum this up in their own words?
2. Where does this talk about “how we see”? What words or phrases have to do with sight?
3. Read verse 16. Based on the argument of this chapter, *why* don’t we view people the way the world does anymore?
4. From what this says, how *should* we view people?
5. From what this says, what is the role of someone who knows Christ in the lives of those around them? (Hint: verses 11 and 19-20)

Note for leaders—Following Up

Take notice of who in the group is really interested and curious. Make an intentional effort to hang out with these people this week.

Dollface

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 6

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *Dollface*

You can download the film for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *Dollface* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What one word comes to mind when you think of this film?
3. What do you think she is really longing for?
4. How do you feel pressured to change who you are? To change what aspects of yourself? Who or what do you feel the pressure comes from?
5. Are there things that have given you freedom from life’s expectations?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “Now we’re going to read a passage from the Bible that talks about what God thinks about who we are. It is a poem written by King David in about 1000 B.C. It’s found in Psalm 139.”

Read Psalm 139 (the whole chapter) by each taking turns reading a couple verses at a time.

Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. What parts of this poem do you find interesting, or stick out to you?
2. From this passage, what can we say about how well God knows each of us? How does it make you feel that God knows you this well?
3. How does God feel about the parts of us that are bad or ugly?
4. How does God feel about the parts of us that aren’t bad but that we just don’t like?

Note for leaders—Following Up

Tonight’s topic might have brought up some intense or heavy feelings for people in the group. Be sensitive to that, and if you need to, take some extra time this week to listen and help point their hearts toward Jesus. *A helpful hint* for one-on-one intense emotional conversations...guys meet with guys and ladies with ladies!

Falling Plates

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 7

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *Falling Plates*

You can download the film for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *Falling Plates* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What did you think of this film? What was the most interesting part to you?
2. Think about the first part, how God created us to have life. How have you experienced this in your own life?
3. There’s a lot of imagery of breaking or dying. How have you experienced this in your own life? Did any of those images resonate with you?
4. Look up Ephesians 2:8-10 in the Bible. How do these verses apply to what we’re talking about?

Taking a Step of Faith

Next say: We have talked about how God wants to use us to help others get to know Him. We’re going to use the film we just saw to open the door to talking with others about having a relationship with Jesus Christ. We all know that

social media can be used to tear people down. But we’re going to take one small step to use it for good. If you have a smartphone, I want you to do this right now... get on Facebook or Twitter (whichever you use more) [*wait for people to get out their phones and do it*], and post the link to this video in a status. Along with the link, write something like: ‘Watch this video and tell me what you think about it.’ or you can say something like, ‘This made me think about _____. Tell me what you think!’ The link is www.fallingplates.com.”

If people can't do it on their phone, text them and remind them to do it later this evening. After they're finished posting it, get in small groups and pray that God would use this step of faith to start conversations about having a relationship with Jesus.

Note for leaders—Discipleship

This is a great way for people to take a very simple step of faith! Pray that God starts some good conversations, and that the members of your group take what starts online into real conversations with those friends and family members about Christ. Also, take notice of who in your group really does this and takes it seriously—they may be people you want to spend more time with to help them grow their desire to reach others and to help give them the skills they need to do it!

Missing

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 8

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing. Did anyone have interesting conversations after the *Falling Plates* video last week?

This Week's Film— *Missing*

You can download the film for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *Missing* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. Let’s start with first thoughts or impressions: What do you think of the story? How does it make you feel? Favorite scene?
2. What is the girl seeing in the film? How does she react?
3. What are some areas that you see people searching for acceptance & approval?
4. How do you think people answer the question, “Who are you?” How do you answer that question?
5. At the end of the film, the man said, “I know who you are.” If someone could honestly say that to you, do you think that would sound like good news or bad news?
6. Would your life change if you were accepted by someone for who you are and not for what you do?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “We’re going to read a passage from St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesian church. We read a couple verses from this chapter last week, but here it is in context.”

Read *Ephesians 2:1-10* together. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. This is one way that God answers the question “who are we?” Can someone summarize what this is saying? What do these verses say about who we are?
2. Who we are and what we do are different, but related. How do these verses explain how what we do fits into the question “who are we?”
3. What are some of the good works you think God has prepared for you to do? (Each person’s answer will probably be a bit different, since God has made us each with different backgrounds and passions.)

Note for leaders—Following Up

Take notice of who in the group is really interested and curious. Make an intentional effort to hang out with these people this week.

The Black Hole

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 9

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *The Black Hole*

You can either stream this film for free online, or you can download it for \$0.99 by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *The Black Hole* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What did you think of the story?
2. What one word comes to mind when you think of this film?
3. What do you think motivated him to use the hole in the ways he did?
4. How do you know what’s right and wrong?
5. What did his actions result in? Have you experienced any parallels to this in your life?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “The Bible talks about how we know what is right and wrong, and about the struggle to avoid wrong and pursue right. We’re going to read a passage from St. Paul’s letter to the Roman church together.”

Read Romans 7:10-8:17 together by taking turns reading, a few verses at a time. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. There are two main sections in this passage, which describe two types of lives. Describe the first way of life. What’s it like? What words does this passage use to describe it?
2. What’s a time in your life when you’ve felt like you were held captive by your desires and couldn’t do the right things you wanted to do?
3. What is the second way of life in the passage? What words do these verses use to describe it?
4. What is the difference in the way these two types of people are motivated?
5. How do you know which type you are? (Hint: look at 8:10-11.)
6. Which type of life do you want to experience? Do you know how to gain that kind of life?

Wrap up by praying for each other.

Note for leaders—Finishing Well

You’re nearing the end of the semester. Make an effort to meet with each person in your group and ask them what their plans are over the break, and if there are any ways the *familia* can help them walk with God while they’re away.

Good

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 10

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *Good*

You can download this week's film for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: "This week we'll be watching a short film called *Good* together."

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What are some significant things that the girl and mother said?
3. What motivates the girl to make this phone call? What did she want to accomplish?
4. Have you ever had a relationship like this girl? Were you able to restore the relationship? If so how?
5. Have you ever been in a situation and felt hopeless? If you were to call God in that moment how do you think that conversation would go?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: "Now we're going to read a passage from the Bible that talks about God hearing us when we cry out to him. It's called a 'lament,' and the Bible has many passages like this, where someone is crying out, expressing some pretty raw emotions to God."

Read *Psalm 40* together (the whole thing) together by taking turns reading, a few verses at a

time. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. What parts of this passage do you find interesting, or stick out to you?
2. From this passage, what can we say about how God views us?
3. From this passage, what can we say about how the writer, King David, views God?
4. How do you view God? Be honest: do you feel like it's ok to talk to God like this? How do you think he'd respond?

Wrap up by praying for each other.

Taking a Step of Faith

Next say, "This is big news that we can be considered perfect by God, even though none of us are! Because Jesus offers to give us his perfect life and take the death that we deserve, we don't have to stress out and worry about whether we are "good enough." We know that we aren't, but we know Who is! Let's do something right now to help start the conversation with people about what it means to be good through Jesus' goodness. So take out your phone and post this question on Facebook or Twitter: "What does it mean to be good enough for God? I really am curious what you think..." When people answer your question, pray for them and see where the conversation goes. This isn't about starting an argument, but a conversation. In fact, if you can take the conversation into real life by hanging out and having lunch with a friend who answers you, that would be really cool.

Let's wrap up by praying for each other and asking God to use this to start conversations about him with our friends.

Rain

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 11

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *Rain*

You can download it for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *Rain* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What did you think of the story?
2. What one word comes to mind when you think of this film?
3. What do you think motivated him to use the hole in the ways he did?
4. How do you know what’s right and wrong?
5. What did his actions result in? Have you experienced any parallels to this in your life?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “The Bible talks about how we know what is right and wrong, and about the struggle to avoid wrong and pursue right. We’re going to read a passage from St. Paul’s letter to the Roman church together.”

Read Romans 7:10-8:17 together by taking turns reading, a few verses at a time. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. There are two main sections in this passage, which describe two types of lives. Describe the first way of life. What’s it like? What words does this passage use to describe it?
2. What’s a time in your life when you’ve felt like you were held captive by your desires and couldn’t do the right things you wanted to do?
3. What is the second way of life in the passage? What words do these verses use to describe it?
4. What is the difference in the way these two types of people are motivated?
5. How do you know which type you are? (Hint: look at 8:10-11.)
6. Which type of life do you want to experience? Do you know how to gain that kind of life?

Wrap up by praying for each other.

Note for leaders—Following Up

Take notice of who in the group is really interested and curious. Make an intentional effort to hang out with these people this week. Go eat lunch with them or invite them to go play basketball or something and continue the conversation you started tonight!

Brothers

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 12

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *Brothers*

You can download it for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *Brothers* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What one word comes to mind when you think of this film?
3. Why do you think the older brother was so angry?
4. How do you think the rest of the congregation felt about the situation?
5. If you were the older brother, would you forgive your younger brother?
6. If you were the dad, how would you have welcomed the younger son home?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “This film is inspired by a story Jesus told in the Bible, in the book of Luke. Let’s read it together.”

Read Luke 15:11-32 together by taking turns reading, a few verses at a time. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. Jesus often used stories to illustrate truths about our relationship with God. What do you think he was trying to get across to the people listening?
2. What do you think God wants to say to you through this passage?

Wrap up by praying for each other.

Note for leaders—A Closer Familia

As a group, think of something fun you can do together this week--is there anything going on on campus you can go to together? Maybe make dinner together at someone’s house or can have a game night!

Flow

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 13

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *Flow*

You can download it for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *Flow* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What does each source of water represent in the film?
3. Why do you think the man uses the toilet water rather than the water from the kitchen sink?
4. Metaphorically, have you seen people drink toilet water? What do you think motivated their choice to drink toilet water?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “The Bible uses a similar metaphor in the book of Jeremiah, which records the message that God gave to a prophet (named Jeremiah) to share with the people of Israel hundreds of years before Christ. In it he uses a couple metaphors for Israel’s unfaithfulness to God.”

Read Jeremiah 2:1-13 together by taking turns reading, a few verses at a time. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. What do you think these verses mean? Rephrase it in your own words.
2. Reread verse 13. Does anyone know what a cistern is? (It’s another word for a well, like what you draw water from.) Knowing that, what does it mean to try to get water from a broken well, spiritually speaking?
3. Can you think of a part of your life in which you can relate to this?

Say, “Jesus uses this metaphor, too, in the New Testament, to describe the kind of life he intends for us to have.” *Read John 7:37-39.*

4. How does this compare to the other passage (the one in Jeremiah)?
5. How does someone become this type of person?
6. How do you get a friend to see that they are drinking from bad water, when a good source is available?
7. What or who helps you distinguish between good or bad water in your life?

Wrap up by praying for each other.

In Time

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 14

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *In Time*

You can download it for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *In Time* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of this video?
2. Rather than saying, “spend your time” what does the narrator say we should do with time? What do you think is the difference?
3. How do you see most people attempting investing their time? How do you invest your time?
4. Do most people think about how much influence they can cause with the time they have? Do you? Why or Why not?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “We’re going to look at what the Bible says about investing our lives.”

Ask someone in the group to read *Philippians 1:21-25*. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. This starts out with a bold statement: “To live is Christ, and to die is gain.” What do you think that means?
2. As long as the writer, Paul, lives, he wants his life’s work to be fruitful. According to these verses, what will a fruitful life result in for him? In other words, what does he want the outcome of his life to be? (Hint: Look at the end of verse 25.)
3. What does God want to tell you through these verses?

Wrap up by praying for each other.

Note for leaders—Following Up

Take notice of who in the group is really interested and curious. Make an intentional effort to hang out with these people this week.

The Rent Check

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 15

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *The Rent Check*

You can download it for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *The Rent Check* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What one word comes to mind when you think of this film?
3. Why was Xander freaking out after the phone call?
4. What do you think his parents will do now that they know the truth?
5. If you were Xander would you have changed your appearance?
6. Do you ever feel like you need to hide who you really are from your family and friends? Why or why not?
7. Have you ever thought about how you hide from God?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “Let’s take a look at a story Jesus told about being honest with God about who you are.”

Read Luke 18:9-14 together. You can ask two people to read a couple verses apiece. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. What is the point of this story?

(Note: People might ask about the two characters: Pharisees were a religious group who were highly concerned with following the law, down to the letter. They were particularly concerned with not associating with the wrong, or “unclean,” people. Tax collectors weren’t just like the IRS; they were actually known for getting rich by extorting excess money out of people to line their own pockets.)

2. It may seem dumb to put up a front before God, but why do we do this? In what ways have you tried to put on your best face for God instead of just being honest?

Next say, “We don’t just want to talk about this stuff here...we want to invite others into the conversation as well. So, we’re going to use this film to start conversations with others. Pull out your phone right now and post this video on Twitter or Facebook, and ask something like, ‘Do you ever feel like you need to hide who you really are?’ You can find the video by searching ‘Global Short Film Network The Rent Check.’”

Wrap up by praying together. Be sure to pray that people comment on and engage with the video!

Note for leaders—Discipleship

After people post the video online, encourage them to talk in real life with the people who comment online. Having conversations in the real world often makes it much easier to talk deeply about what God’s done in your life!

Jätku Leiba

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 16

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *Jätku Leiba*

You can download it for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *Jätku Leiba* (pronounced “zhat-coo lay-ba”) together. Here’s a little word of introduction: The film is set in Estonia, and the title is an Estonian blessing that means, ‘May your bread always last.’”

Questions for Discussion

1. What does this film say to you?
2. What things were broken in the film?
3. What do you think about the note saying, “Nothing is broken forever”? Do you agree or disagree?
4. How do you handle brokenness in your own life?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “Let’s take a look at a passage in the Bible that deals with brokenness. This is from the book of Revelation, a series of vision that Jesus Christ gave to St. John. The point of the book was not to make precise predictions about the future, but rather to give Christians a real hope about the future, in the face of present hardships and persecutions.”

Read Revelation 21:1-8 together. You can ask two or three people to read a couple verses apiece. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. While the whole book of Revelation is full of symbolism and imagery, but this part is very clear about how things will end up for God’s people. According to this passage, what will life be like in the end for God’s people?
2. According to this passage, what things will come to an end and be no more? What things don’t end in the future life with God?
3. In the future, how will God acknowledge and deal with brokenness that we experience? What about brokenness today?
4. Have you ever been to a church where they take Holy Communion (or the Eucharist)? What does the priest or pastor say about the bread? (“This is the Body of Christ, broken for you.”) Any ideas how that relates to our brokenness?

To wrap up the discussion, read this: “Jesus doesn’t just say, ‘Don’t worry about your brokenness!’ And he doesn’t say, ‘Fix your brokenness before you come to me.’ Instead he was broken for us in his death, and when he returns, those who choose to identify themselves with his death will have their tears wiped away, and will never experience brokenness and death ever again.”

Wrap up by praying together.

Vinyl

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 17

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *Vinyl*

You can download it for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *Vinyl* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What one word comes to mind when you think of this film?
3. Why does he care so much about his one record?
4. Why does losing something, or being lost, cause such a feeling of panic?
5. What have you lost that would cause you to throw a party if you got it back?
6. If you were lost, how would you feel if someone searched for you like this?
7. Have you ever felt like God was searching for you? Maybe for instance, things happen that you knew couldn't be just coincidence or luck. What was this like for you?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “Let’s take a look at a parable, or story, Jesus told about this same idea.”

Ask someone in the group to read Luke 15:8-10. Note: We did look at this passage last semester, but we’re reading it again to help people really get the idea to

sink in, that it’s God who rescues us, not we who earn God’s favor. The point is, we are just as helpless as a lost coin lying under a couch. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. What does it mean that we are lost?
2. What does the coin need to do to get found? (Yes, this is a trick question! The coin can’t “do” anything.)
3. What does it mean for God to find us?
4. What is our responsibility in being found by God? What does he require of us to be found? (Maybe responsiveness? Acknowledgement that we can’t “unlose” ourselves, and trust in him.)

Next say this: “Now we’re going to read the second half of verse 9 again, but this time, replace the word ‘coin’ with your full name. So say, ‘God says, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost [your first and last name].”’ I’d like each person to say this out loud for everyone else to hear, if you’re comfortable.”

Start with yourself and go around the circle and have people insert their own name. Don’t force anyone, but encourage people to do it if they feel comfortable.

This is a form of “confession”: confessing God’s truth about yourself can move you in powerful and unexpected ways.

Wrap up by praying together.

Note for leaders—A Closer Familia

Next week would be a great time to do something fun instead of having your normal discussion. Maybe go grill out in the park and play kickball, or have a game night!

Wings

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 18

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *Wings*

You can download it for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *Wings* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. First impressions: What do you think of the film?
2. How do Charlie’s parents react to his claim that he can fly? Why?
3. What things in your life do people say are impossible for you?
4. How do you react when people tell you not to trust what you know to be true?
5. What would it have meant for Charlie if he still said he believed he could fly, but had gotten off the roof when his parents asked?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “Let’s take a look at a passage from the Bible about this same idea.”

Read Hebrews 11 (the whole chapter) together by taking turns reading a few verses at a time. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. What’s this chapter all about?
2. What’s your definition of faith? How does this passage of Scripture define faith? (Look at verse 1.)
3. If you could meet one of these people who are commended for their faith, who would it be, and what would you ask them about?
4. Verses 39 and 40 say that these people lived out their faith, suffered, and yet did not receive the fullness of their faith, because our faith is the result. We are a part of their story. They “jumped off the roof,” so to speak, by living out their faith in huge midst of opposition. What “roof” might God ask you to “jump off of”?

Wrap up by praying together. Pray for each other’s specific needs and ways they need to take steps of faith.

Note for Leaders—Encouraging Future Leaders

As you near the end of the year, think about who in your *familia* has been there, has participated the most, and seems to really be taking steps of faith. Pray for those people, and then talk to them about taking a leadership role in your Destino movement. Maybe they could start a *familia* discussion group on another part of campus next year!

The Braverman Account

Short Film Familia Discussions

Week 19

Connecting with Each Other

Start by asking how everyone has been doing.

This Week's Film— *The Braverman Account*

You can download it for free by going to www.globalshortfilmnetwork.com and searching for it by name.

Start by saying: “This week we’ll be watching a short film called *The Braverman Account* together.”

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. What one word comes to mind when you think of this film?
3. What dilemma did the characters face? How did they each respond to it?
4. What motivated the decisions of each investor?
5. What keeps people from taking more risks? What keeps you from taking bigger risks?

Exploring this Theme in the Bible

Next say: “Let’s take a look at a parable, or story, Jesus told about this same idea.”

Read Matthew 25:14-30 together by taking turns reading a few verses at a time. Use the following questions to explore the passage.

1. Can anyone summarize this story?
2. What kept the third servant, who was only given one talent (a talent was actually a unit of money, like a bag of gold) from investing the master’s money?
3. What do you think made the other two servants feel free to invest or take a risk with the master’s money?
4. What is the riskiest thing you can imagine God asking you to do? Be honest: are you so afraid of making a mistake that you don’t want to make a move?

Wrap up by praying together.

Note for leaders—Finishing Well

You’re nearing the end of the semester. Make an effort to meet with each person in your group and ask them what their plans are over the break, and if there are any ways the *familia* can help them walk with God while they’re away.