



DATE(S)

August 27-28, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

At The Movies – Week 4

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Sacrifice is the way of Jesus.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

**1 John 3:16
1 John 4:10
Ephesians 5:1-2**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

***NO GAME

Due to the shorter service times in the main auditorium and the longer video messages in 56, we will not include a weekly game for 56 during At The Movies. Watching a movie and eating free popcorn for 5 weeks in a row is a good substitute!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

Tell us about a time where someone sacrificed their time and went out of their way to do something for you.

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

At The Movies 2022
The Mandalorian

(S1E1 – 34:18-36:11 into Season 2 Trailer – bring other iconic footage from other episodes)

In November of 2019, the legend of The Child...more affectionately known as Baby Yoda...was born. The show "The Mandalorian" follows the story of a bounty hunter known as The Mandalorian, who is part of a secret group that follow the Mandalorian creed, which includes never taking your helmet off in front of other people. When the show starts, we don't really know if he's one of the good guys or the bad guys. That all changes when he is assigned to find a creature and return it for a large sum of money – only to find out it is this 50 year-old child who is the same species as famous Jedi master, Yoda.

This show took off in popularity and even pulled in people who were not "Star Wars fans." There are many reasons for this – the father-son relationship between Mando and the Child, the action sequences, and this incredibly important theme of sacrifice. The word "sacrifice" is such an important part of following Jesus and being a Christian...and I want to explore how the theme of sacrifice in The Mandalorian can help us have a deeper/better understanding of how we can live a life of sacrifice.

(B-roll of Mando holding his finger out to the child with this VO) The show begins when Mando realizes this bounty is a small child. This professional bounty hunter who makes his living "taking people out" now has this soft spot for The Child. This really ramps up when he is facing certain death until The Child does the unthinkable... **(S1E2 – 19:10-20:28)**

The Child has been trained to use the Force and is willing to sacrifice his own life to save The Mandalorian. As we will see through the rest of this series, sacrificing for another will take center stage.

As I look at my own life, I've been spending time reflecting on who has sacrificed for me. My parents certainly did – my dad worked hard to provide for our family as a factory worker and while we could have made more money if my mom worked, she decided to stay home and take care of us. I think about all the schoolteachers who played a role in helping me learn. I think about the church leaders and youth pastors who deeply cared for me and taught me about Jesus. I think about people like my grandfather who served in the military along with millions of others who sacrificed to protect our freedoms. Finally, I think about my dear friends who also serve as pastors and church leaders who are doing everything they can to serve people and make sure ALL people are loved, served, and treated with dignity.

THE MESSAGE

Have you ever stopped and thought about who has sacrificed for you? How has that sacrifice influenced you? How has it helped you? Has it caused YOU to live more sacrificially?

(S1E8 – 10:40-14:03 B-roll montage, shorten significantly) (VO) At the end of Season 1, the Mandalorian recalls his own childhood, in which his parents hid him from the attack of the Empire and gave their lives to protect him. He is then discovered and protected by the Mandalorians who sacrificed their own lives to save this child. He is now forever indebted to their act of sacrifice.

To show this newfound change, he takes it upon himself to not turn the Child in for money, but instead to keep him, be his father-figure, and reunite him with his own kind, the Jedi. Mando takes on a dangerous task of finding a specific Jedi named Ahsoka Tano, and during the course of that journey, we find out more of who this Child is.

(S2E5 – 14:50-21:16, shorten non-dialogue sequences, include 13:14-13:54 of BOBF S1E6 when Ahsoka talks about Jedi Temple)

What I love about this scene are the parallels about the Mandalorian's childhood and what happens to Grogu (the Child finally has a name!) in his past. Very similarly, we see people literally give their lives...sacrifice...for each of them to stay alive. This is the deepest and most complete expression of love for someone else. There's a verse in the New Testament in 1 John 3:16 which says this: *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."* The ultimate example of this type of love, this type of sacrifice...was Jesus Himself. And this is where I want to go for our **THP (Take Home Point)** for this message:

Sacrifice is the way of Jesus.

As I think about this further, I keep being reminded of just how much Jesus sacrificed to save our lives. This is God in human form coming to earth as a baby, growing up as a teenager, starting his ministry as a 30 year-old man, and over the next three years, he had more influence on this world than anyone else in human history. And he didn't gain that influence by having a ton of earthly power or riches. He did it because He sacrificed for people – in the way He loved people, in the way He challenged people to leave their lives of sin, in the way He honored God in everything He did. This is God Himself, the one being in the universe who could be completely selfish and impose His will, deciding to lay down His life for us. Ultimately, that's exactly what He did – He sacrificed His own life.

THE MESSAGE

In the New Testament, 1 John 4:10 says this: *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God: but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.”* In another place, the New Testament author, Paul, says this in Ephesians 5:1-2: *“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”* If we want to live a life of sacrifice, and lay down our life for others, Jesus is the example we should follow.

At the end of Season 2 of The Mandalorian, Grogu is captured and Mando is determined to do everything he can to rescue him. **(VO)** He confronts his kidnapper, Moff Gideon, with a message...**(S2E7 – 32:50-33:36)**

A whole team of people join Mando to try and rescue Grogu. They are bound and determined to save his life. However, when they find their plan hanging in the balance and Grogu’s life is in serious danger, an unexpected hero arrives, and we also see what Mando is willing to sacrifice in order to save Grogu...

(S2E8 – 29:47-36:46, cut out some dark trooper footage, faster cuts with non-dialogue parts)

The Mandalorian, this father-figure, shows incredible personal sacrifice to give Grogu to Luke Skywalker so that he can be safe, even if it means great pain for him. Not only that, he takes his helmet off...showing that he was willing to break the Mandalorian creed...all out of love for this little child. As I watched this final scene, I thought to myself, “What lengths would I go to in order to protect the ones I love? What would I be willing to sacrifice or give up to do what’s right for them?” Sacrifice comes at a cost – for God, it cost Him His only Son. But since God and Jesus were one and the same, it actually cost Him His life. That’s why our **Take Home Point** is true: **Sacrifice is the way of Jesus.**

(VO brief) While you and I may never be put in position to sacrifice our lives for someone else, I believe we can genuinely live a life of sacrifice. What would it look like to sacrifice for your family? Your friends? How can you sacrifice for those in your schools and neighborhoods? How can you sacrifice for those in this church? How do we live sacrificially like Jesus so the world can take notice? This Jesus who showed His perfect love through sacrifice, who showed His perfect forgiveness through sacrifice, who showed His perfect power through sacrifice.

So what about you? What step do you need to take to live a life of sacrifice and follow in the footsteps of Jesus? We have a world full of hopelessness, selfishness, and pride – it’s dying to see followers of Jesus show that sacrificial love to the world. And yes, I know, most of you are probably thinking, “Living a life of sacrifice like Jesus is going to be the hardest, most challenging, and most emotionally painful thing I will ever have to do.” :::pause:::

This is the way.

(36:46-38:54 – end with “Season 3 of The Mandalorian: Coming February 2023)



CLOSING GROUP TIME

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

*****Leader's Note:** Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP (Take Home Point) today and why was that important during the message?

How was the theme of sacrifice emphasized in the film today?

What do you think are some reasons why people in our world today wouldn't want to sacrifice for someone else?

Let's re-read a passage of Scripture that we heard in the message: these are the words of Paul in the New Testament in Ephesians 5:1-2:

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice by dying for our sins, but what are some other examples you know of where Jesus was living a life of sacrifice? How does that challenge you to do the same in your life? **(Leader's Note: This question will stretch them and may reveal what they know/don't know about Scripture. Use this as an encouragement/challenge for them to read the Gospels.)**

How will the THP (Take Home Point) help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

ACTIVITIES

Since this message talks about Jesus living a life of sacrifice and the group discussion time challenges the students to think of examples from the Gospels where Jesus lived sacrificially, this would be a great time to hand out Book 1 of the Your Journey devotionals. It has a green cover. It covers the four gospels and will help our students go deeper into Scripture and read about the life/ministry of Jesus.

After your group is finished with your discussion, close in prayer together!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

Stupid Video of the Week
Message video
Message script
Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

Pro Presenter or Playlister

