



DATE(S)

August 6-7, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

At The Movies – Week 1

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Join God's family!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

**Romans 8:14
Matthew 12:49-50,
Matthew 28:18-20
Revelation 7:9-10**

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 one fun fact about your family!

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
Encanto

(Encanto soundtrack used for musical underscore during teaching sections)

(15:07-16:30 – put the beginning audio over top of ATM bumper and fade into footage)

(Start as VO) For the last 85 years, Disney has created some of the most iconic animated movies of all time. However, in 2021, something different happened. Their newest creation, Encanto, a story about the Madrigal family in Colombia (a country in South America), seemed to strike a chord with people all around the world. Now, that probably had a lot to do with all the super catchy music written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, including that one song about that one guy. C'mon you're all thinking it...we *don't talk about Bruno*...

(46:09-47:43 – point out Bruno walking along the balcony and then zoom in on Bruno dancing – maybe a quote bubble that says, “This song SLAPS!”)

“We Don’t Talk About Bruno” is now the most downloaded/listened to Disney song of all time. Before the film was even made and while Lin-Manuel Miranda was actually writing the music for Moana (which I know a lot of you have seen), he told the creators at Disney, “I would love to write the definitive Latin American musical!” That’s when they got to work.

The biggest obstacle was trying to figure out a way to introduce all the members of the Madrigal family. The movie creators told Lin, “How in the world are we going to introduce 12 people in the first few minutes of the movie?!” Lin said, “That’s easy – I’ll just write a song about all of them!” **(Voiceover)** Enter the opening scene of the Family Madrigal... **(Figure out how to condense 4:00-8:48)**

Doesn’t this movie just put you in a good mood? I love the representation we see in Madrigal family – several shapes, sizes, skin tones, hairstyles, and it all centers around this Colombian culture. One of the cool things that happened after the movie came out on Disney+ was a little 2-year-old boy named Kenzo had a chance to watch the film. When he saw the youngest Madrigal family member, Antonio on screen, he thought it was him...because...well...HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM! **(Show Kenzo picture)**. I love that little Kenzo was able to see someone with his hairstyle, his skin tone, his smile on screen. It was an incredible moment for his family.

This movie is all about that – family. We all have one. There are some incredible parts of being a family and there are some hard parts of being a family. For Mirabel, she loves that her family are all in one house together, but that means the good and the bad of it are included. Her relationship with her sister, Isabella, is strained, but there’s a special bond between her and her cousin, Antonio...but then she struggles to live up to her abuela’s expectations. You see, they all have incredible gifts because of this magical miracle that binds their family together and Mirabel loves that...except... **(8:59-9:03 – “Mirabel didn’t get one...”)**

THE MESSAGE

And THIS is where the movie takes a turn. Mirabel starts wondering if her miraculous gift is ever going to come. When she expresses her frustration, the magic in her house begins to crack and fade. Something is definitely not right. She also knows her Uncle Bruno had a strange vision and then just disappeared one day. Is it possible these two things could be connected?

(Voiceover) She takes matters into her own hands and makes the climb up to Bruno's room hoping to find some answers. She stumbles upon some shards of glass that reveal her picture in Bruno's vision. Now she REALLY has to talk to him. What happens next is a deeper look into the conflict of the Madrigal family...something that happens in EVERY family.

(57:52-1:05:55)

Bruno's right – conflict and broken relationships with your family can be so difficult to overcome. I mean, yeah, you still love them, but conflict will make it really hard to LIKE them! When I watched this film the first time, I was struck by (as I said earlier) the representation of culture, language, ethnicity...and I was also taking notice of the theme on family. You know, the New Testament author, Paul, tells a church in Rome in the first century that THEY are a family, too. Isn't that interesting? The idea of a church – which would include people who are related to each other and also complete strangers – that this is ALSO a family. Paul writes this in Romans 8:14 – *“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”* Paul says whoever is following God – someone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ – they have joined a family. In some ways, this is a family with even closer bonds than you have with your biological or adopted family.

Jesus believed this, too. On one occasion his mom and brother were waiting outside for him while he finished up teaching a group of people. When someone told Him they were waiting for Him, he said this in Matthew 12:49-50 – *“Pointing to His disciples, He said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”* Jesus's words here are powerful – anyone who is a follower of Christ is my brother or sister. That means this group you're a part of – this church, this community – this is a family.

And God...He wants our family to grow. He wants us to grow closer to Him individually. He wants us to grow closer to Him as a community...AND...He wants us to grow our family. Like, literally...increase the number of family members in this family of God. After Jesus rose from the dead, He ascended into heaven to be with God and these were His final words to His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20: *“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

When Jesus told them to make disciples of all nations, the word nations in the original language of the New Testament, Greek, is the word *ethnos*. This is where we get the word “ethnicity” in our English language. In other words, Jesus didn't tell his disciples (and by extension, us) to go into all the world geographically...He told us to go into all the world demographically...MEANING...you're not just going to a country; you're going to a people.

THE MESSAGE

And you know what...God's family is just like the Madrigal family. **(VO)** Full of culture, language, different skin colors **(pull footage from online somewhere)**. Tons of diversity and difference, but STILL. ONE. FAMILY **(Charlie Dates sermon)**. This is a global faith, not just a faith in our community or even this country. The message of Jesus Christ has gone all over the world.

And the New Testament writer, John, gives us a beautiful picture of what God's family will look like once we pass away, once Jesus comes back to this world to make everything that is broken whole again, and what they'll be doing in eternity forever. John writes this in Revelation 7:9-10 – *"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

As we close, I want to leave you with our **Take Home Point** for today...and it's this statement: **Join God's family. JOIN GOD'S FAMILY!**

Be a part of the most incredible family you could possibly be a part of. Will there be challenges? Yes. Will there be tension among family members? Yes. Will we wrong one another? Yes. Will we have to forgive one another just like Jesus forgave us? Oh yeah. This is a broken family because it's made of broken people – people like you and me. But can we be a family who welcomes one another – yes. Can we be a family where someone can walk through the doors of our church and be known by name? Yes. Can we be a family who is intentional about making sure no one feels left out or alone? Yes. However, that begins with us. This isn't God's suggestion, either – it's His command. We need to be this kind of family...and maybe, just maybe, people will see God in us and will want to JOIN this family.

As Maribel realizes at the end of Encanto, the miracle of her family is everyone using their gift so they can be brought closer together – realizing they are more than their gift. They are loved, valuable, worthwhile simply because they are part of the family. My question for you is this: do you want to join God's family?

Do you want to join God's family and use your gift to serve Him and His family? I hope so – because when you do, God's family will become stronger. I believe this church, this student ministry, can be a family and reflect this kind of love. And if the world sees our love for God and for one another...maybe, just maybe, we'll see a miracle in our world, too.

(1:28:09-1:31:02 – show Revelation 7:9 verse before it fades to black)



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?

We know that every family is imperfect because it's made up of imperfect people. However, what is one strength about your family?

What is one conflict you've had to work through in your family? What is one step you've tried to take to resolve it?

During the message, Zach talked about what makes God's family unique. Will someone share one of the things he said?

Let's read a passage of Scripture from the book of Revelation; the last book of the New Testament. This is a vision of heaven God gave to a man named John who wrote Revelation. We saw this passage twice at the.

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

What is one thing that stands out about this passage to you and how does it relate to the idea of God's family?

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

We want this family here at Northview Students to reflect the vision of God's family as best we can. That starts with us being welcoming and inviting to all people. We hope this life group can also be a place where we are intentional about asking people to join God's family.

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

