



DATE(S)

August 13-14, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

At The Movies – Week 2

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

God redeemed us!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Philippians 2:3

James 3:16

Luke 1:68

2 Corinthians 5:17

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 situation where you received a second chance at doing something.

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
Spiderman: No Way Home

(1:00-7:54 ***cut out 1:13-1:16 and 3:06-5:10, 10:52-11:39)

Have you ever felt something that happened in your life was unfair? Maybe you were accused of doing something and it wasn't even remotely true, or your reputation takes a hit when your friends get caught doing something they shouldn't be doing and it was just "wrong place, wrong time" for you? I think we could all admit that we are rarely completely and utterly innocent...at some level, we all probably contributed something wrong that we could learn from and do differently the next time.

There was one occasion in middle school where I found myself being "guilty by association" – has that ever happened to you? Not fun! My friends were the ones talking during class, goofing off, quietly making fun of the teacher, distracting me. Now sure...I laughed and joined in, even though I didn't say anything rude or participate in the teasing. One day after class, our teacher handed back our tests and for some reason, she handed out everyone's but mine. She said, "Zach, there was something about your test that we need to discuss before I give it back so would you see me after class?" Of course, some students in the class were like, "Oooooohhh. Uh oh, Matchett is in trouble with the teacher." It didn't help I was "the good kid" so the fact I was perceived as being punished made their reaction that much greater.

I was pretty humiliated, and I went to her desk after class, and she handed me my exam...big red print at the top...D-. Lowest grade I had ever received on a test up until that point. I hung my head embarrassed, ashamed, and wished I could just walk out so I wouldn't have to deal with it. This teacher looked at me and said, "Zach, you're a good student. What happened?" My first response was, "Well, science isn't my best subject and this was really hard and I thought you said the study guide was going to be used more than the textbook and...." She stopped me and said, "That's not the real reason. The boys you're hanging out with are distracting you. They don't care about being good students right now – don't fall into that trap."

And then she said something I'll never forget – "Zach, this isn't like you. This is not who you are." Inwardly, I was angry that she lumped me in with the troublemakers. You know what, though, that moment was exactly what I needed to get re-focused on school, study better/harder/earlier than the night before and recognize that nothing is more important than my character.

The film Spiderman: No Way Home is the third film portraying Tom Holland as Spiderman who is now one of the newest members of The Avengers. As you saw in the first scene, Spiderman's identity as Peter Parker has been revealed to the world (**VO over the top of 13:57-14:08**), and now he is under constant pressure, constant scrutiny, and a lot more criticism than he ever thought possible for a superhero. All of it is completely unfair because he didn't do what people said he did. Now he has to figure out a way to redeem his reputation – a second chance.

THE MESSAGE

The film turns a corner when he pays a visit to his Avengers teammate, Dr. Stephen Strange, to ask if it's possible to go back in time and make it so his identity is not revealed. Dr. Strange is definitely hesitant of going back in time and messing with all that because...you know...the whole Thanos thing. However, he does know a way to make everyone in the world forget that Peter Parker is Spiderman. Peter is excited, but begins to realize the implications of what that ACTUALLY means...

(22:47-26:23)

Yeahhhhh, that didn't go the way Peter thought. When life gets tough, it can be very enticing to want to erase every mistake, take away all the punishment or hardship or criticism...but that doesn't work. It definitely doesn't work when you miss easier steps like Peter did. Not only that, it sets up Peter's biggest challenge yet because his statement of "...basically everyone that knows that I was Spiderman before should still know!" – it ends up applying to every previous villain Spiderman has ever faced...all of whom knew or found out that Peter Parker was Spiderman.

(Villains – 29:10-29:18, 34:29-34:31, 43:34-43:36, 46:22-46:24, 46:55-46:58 – use all as B-roll)

Apparently erasing the past, however unfair it might be, isn't the best way to restore your reputation and character. However, do we have the ability to change our reputation if we get a second chance? This theme comes up later when Peter has some conversations with these villains from a previous time. Peter agrees with Dr. Strange that they should be sent back and if they die, they die. But that's when Aunt May steps in and brings some wisdom to him...

(50:12-51:08)

I love Aunt May's advice to Peter here. These people need help...and when Peter says, "No, it's better for them to go back," she says, "Better for them or for you?" In Peter's effort to restore his own reputation, he shows his disinterest in helping others restore theirs. He's so consumed with himself (even though it's for a VERY good reason) that he won't even serve others...even if they find themselves in a very similar situation. Students, when we allow self-centeredness to prevent us from loving and serving our neighbor, we have moved away from God's best.

There are two places in the New Testament where some of the biblical writers, Paul and James, warn against the dangers of selfishness. Paul writes this in Philippians 2:3, "*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves...*" When we value others above ourselves, that doesn't make us less important. It just lives out what God has called us to and how HE served others. James says something similarly in James 3:16: "*For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*"

In spite of the truth of these verses, any person can approach God and ask for forgiveness. Anyone, anytime, anywhere. He is the God of another chance, He's the God of endless second chances. That's who our God is.

THE MESSAGE

As this movie comes to an end, Spiderman desperately wants a second chance to make things right...especially now because he experiences the deepest form of tragedy when his Aunt May is killed by the Green Goblin. Now, he cares nothing for these villains and feels no amount of empathy for them.

(VO) It isn't until he is visited by two other Peter Parkers from previous worlds that things become more clear...

(1:29:52-1:33:47, 1:38:53-1:40:06)

(VO) All three Peter Parkers work together to cure each villain and give them that second chance they deeply want **(B-Roll of villains returning to human form)**. In the process of doing so, Dr. Strange reappears and tells them that while he admires their willingness to give the villains a second chance, he has to put the universe and time back together as it should be. There's only one way to do that, and that hinges on Spiderman now doing the most selfless act he has ever done...

(2:00:28-2:02:08)

(B-roll of 2:02:08-2:04:47) (VO) Peter originally thought that making the world forget he was Spiderman was the right plan and then he changed his mind. He wasn't ready to make that kind of sacrifice – he just needed to get out of a tough situation. Now, he recognizes the only way to truly make things better and for him to get the second chance he needs, he needs to make the ultimate sacrifice.

You know, in the first century an angel visited an elderly married couple who were beyond the age of having children, and the angel told them they would have a son. They were to name the son, John. When John was born, his father, Zechariah, said these words in Luke 1:68 in the New Testament: *"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come to His people and redeemed them."* Redeemed them. Interesting word choice. In the original language, the word redeem literally means "to be released from prison." The only way a prisoner can be set free is if someone lets them out. This same angel visited another couple...a much younger couple...and told them they would have a son...and His name would be Jesus, which means "The Lord saves."

I don't know where you are at in life today, but it would be pretty easy for me to just end this message talking about how cool it is that Spiderman sacrificed his wants and needs for the needs of others. I can't do that, though. I want to talk about someone else who did that for you...and he's not just in a movie. Jesus Christ saved us. In fact, he REDEEMED us. That's our **Take Home Point** for this message: **God redeemed us.**

When God redeemed us through His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, He didn't just give us a second chance – He literally set us free from the prison of sin and death. We don't just get a second chance from God – we become a new person. As Paul says in the New Testament in 2 Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* You may be here today and think to yourself, "I need a new start. I need to change some things. I need to change my reputation." You can accomplish all of those things by simply doing one thing: believing in the Lord Jesus.

(2:13:10-2:13:35) (VO) God redeemed us. We have been given a fresh start. A new life. The choice is up to you: do you want to hold on to your old life or do you want to put the baggage of your old life down and walk through the door into a new life with Jesus?

(Cut to black with musical underscore, put 2 Corinthians 5:17 verse up and then fade 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?

Why was the topic of people being redeemed important in the movie?

Why do you think God feels people are worth redeeming and giving second chances to?

Let's read a passage of Scripture that came up during the message, particularly at the very end. It comes from the New Testament in 2 Corinthians 5:17:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

What do you think a "new creation in Christ" means? How would you know if that has happened to a person?

What is one area of your life where you need God to redeem you or give you a second chance?

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

Congratulate and encourage those students who made a decision to follow Jesus today! Remind them that this group can be an awesome support system for them as they begin this new journey.

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

