



Resources for Youth Groups

For many more resources about this film go to

Here are meeting plans and resources for one Sunday meeting and two midweek meetings, plus a leaders guide to using the youth group material;

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✘ Leader's Guide

The movie, *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*, provides a thought-provoking array of biblical, moral and life themes. Using a movie is a fantastic visual aid to sparking off all kinds of discussions and activities and is also pretty much guaranteed to hold the attention of those you're working with.

These resources will help you to use the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*, to get your young people thinking. Though film clips are mentioned and available on the website, if at all possible, get your young people out to see the film in advance of these meetings, preferably as a whole group. Churched or unchurched, it's a tremendous experience, and an outreach activity that you simply can't miss. And who could possibly say no to an evening out that involves enormous amounts of popcorn and fizz?

Prayer: Give this week over to God. You do it all the time anyway, but think about the young people you work with, and the special opportunities that this film offers for your work with them. Think as well about the possibility of using these meetings as a way of attracting some new faces to your group. Ask Jesus to help you help the young people to see a little something of him, not only in the film but also in the activities you'll be providing.

✘ Additional information:

You will need:

Sunday activity:

Post-it notes; pens, Bible/s; clip 'Drop Him'; various percussion instruments; pens/paper and other craft stuff; various items of 'fancy' dress (hats, ties, bags, etc); *Forgiveness* poem by Chuck Smoot (go to: www.forgivenessweb.com/RdgRm/poems.htm).

Midweek:

Football; paper/pens; movie reviews from magazines/websites (www.rottentomatoes.com); roll of plain wall paper; marker pens; instant camera; pencils/erasers; Bibles.

Midweek outreach:

Song titles on scraps of paper as per activity described; pencils/paper; movie reviews from magazines/websites (www.rottentomatoes.com); sealable boxes; clip: **Who lived here?** nightlight candle/matches, plate, bowl.

✘ Other notes:

For both the midweek activities, it is assumed that a part of this activity is to arrange for the group to get together and head to the cinema to see the movie in full. There are a number of considerations with regard to this, for example, some may not be able to make it for various reasons/commitments, and it's probably not possible to watch the movie and have the midweek session all in the same night! It would be worth planning such a trip well in advance to sort out parental consent, church support, possible funding, sufficient adult cover and so on.

✘ Sunday Meeting: True Forgiveness

✘ Group warm up and prayers:

1. **Focus on the good:**
You'll need post-it notes and pens. Give each person in the group a number of post-it notes and a pen. Now tell the group that they have to use each note to write something good about someone (a talent, something they've done, etc.) and stick it to that person's back. And they have to do this as quickly as possible! Time them (either set a time limit of, say, five minutes, or play an appropriate song from a CD and say that the time limit is until the song finishes). At the end each person is told by someone else what is written on their backs. This reinforces people's talents in a clear, verbal and supportive way.
2. **Prayer:**
Ask God to help everyone get something out of the evening, thanking him for all their individual talents and strengths.

✘ Intro:

Gather everyone round to read through Psalm 130:1-4. Ask if people in the group find it difficult to forgive and forget. Encourage the young people to offer reasons for their answers. How would they feel if God kept a record of everything they'd done wrong to remind them of it every time they did something else wrong?

✘ Film Clip:

1. Show the clip **Drop Him**
2. Split the group into pairs or small groups. Show the clip 'Drop Him' once more, this time asking the young people to pay particular attention to what happens to Trumpkin, and to put themselves in his rather soggy shoes.

✘ Discussion:

1. Ask the groups to share what they found from the clip, focusing on the following questions:
 - Why do the Pevensies save Trumpkin?
 - Do they know anything about Trumpkin before rescuing him?
 - What is Trumpkin's response to being rescued (push the young people to see beyond the humour of his response and to recognise his lack of gratitude to his rescuers)?
2. Ask the group to think for a moment about how they respond to God's forgiveness: do they try to live a pure life, or are they content to keep on sinning? What hope would any of us have if God worked on the basis of one strike and you're out? Why is God's forgiveness so utterly fantastic? What do they think is meant by unconditional love? Check out Luke 15:20-24: the example of the father in this parable shows us that forgiveness involves letting go of the wrongs that others have done to us, and going on to show mercy and love to those same people, rather than harbouring resentment or hostility towards them.

✂ Activity:

1. Keeping the groups as they were, provide them with an assortment of items including: various percussion instruments; pens/paper and other craft stuff; various items of 'fancy' dress (hats, ties, bags, etc).
2. Give the groups 10-20 minutes to come up with something that presents their understanding of true forgiveness. This can be anything from a drama to graffiti art to something musical – whatever their imaginations can come up with.
3. Check that the groups are happy to share what they've done and allow each group to show the rest what they've come up with.
4. End with a big round of applause for everyone!
5. Note: it might be worth coming up with your own 'thing' to get the ball rolling.

✂ Bring together:

1. Present two rubbish baskets to the group, one entitled 'Me' the other, 'Them', and a pile of scrap bits of paper and pens.
2. Invite the group to write the following: for the 'Me' basket: something they've done for which they want to be forgiven; for the 'Them' basket: something someone has done to them that they haven't yet truly forgiven.
3. Take the group outside and burn the scraps of paper. This is what God does with our sin when we ask for forgiveness; burns it up so not a scrap of it is left. We should, therefore, do the same when we forgive someone else, no matter how hard.

✂ Prayer:

Show the clip one last time. Now read them the *Forgiveness* poem by Chuck Smoot (go to: www.chucksmoot.net/poetry-forgiveness.html). Give them a few minutes of quiet time, then draw to a close.

✂ Possible development activity:

Email the group daily for the next week with the following questions, one question per day. You could encourage them to start an email discussion by responding to your questions and 'replying to all'. Here are the questions:

1. What is forgiveness?
2. Are there any sins you can't forgive?
3. What is it that stops you/others forgiving?
4. How do you forgive if the other person isn't even sorry?
5. How do you know if you've been forgiven?

✘ Midweek Meeting: My Talents, My Life

✘ Group warm up and prayers:

1. All you'll need for this is a football and everyone sat in a circle.
2. Explain that the aim is to throw the football around/across the group in no particular order so that when you catch it you share a little bit of information about your own goals for your life. The goals can be as big or as small, and as serious or frivolous as people want.
3. It is probably best for you to offer one of your life goals first, to 'get the ball rolling' as it were!
4. If you have time, once everyone has shared something, throw the ball to some of the group and ask them to say some more about their goal, such as why it's so important to them, what they're doing to achieve it, and so on.

✘ Intro:

1. Split the group into twos or threes. Give each five minutes to come up with a 100 word review of the film *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*. If you can, provide them with copies of reviews for *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* and other movies from magazines, newspapers or websites such as www.rottentomatoes.com.
2. Ask each group to read their review out (if they're happy to do so). Alternatively, get the reviews and print them off as a group review sheet/email.

✘ Film Clips:

1. Split the group in two and explain that you are going to show two very distinct clips. Tell one group to focus on the first, and the other group to focus on the second.
2. Show the following clips: **Who lived here** and **You are a mouse**.

✘ Group 1 Activity: Graffiti Wall

1. Provide the group with a roll of cheap, plain wall paper, and a huge array of thick, bold poster pens.
2. Get them to think about how the Pevensies must have felt to find themselves back in their ruined castle. What must it have felt like to realise that after 1300 years, there was still a mark of their lives on the landscape. Now ask them this: what will YOU do in your life that in years to come will still matter? How will YOU make your life count?
3. Now get the group to turn the wall paper into the ultimate sign to the world, telling it exactly what they're doing with their lives now, what they plan to do, and how those things will mean something and make a difference. They can use slogans, questions, statements, cartoons, pictures or anything else they can think of. You could use the results as a wall display for your meeting room, or somewhere else in the church building if appropriate.

✘ Group 2 Activity: Script It

1. Provide the group with an instant camera, some A4 pads and pencils/erasers.
2. Get them to think about how people in the film see Reepicheep, how they judge him on the basis of his size rather than his actions, for example. Now ask them this: how do you think God sees you? What talents and gifts does he see? And what expectations does he have on you with regard to what you're going to do with them?
3. Now get the group to turn their ideas into a photo-cartoon, using themselves as the actors in each of the pictures acting out the scenes in tableau. The title of the cartoon should be something along the lines of 'Who I really am', or 'What you see versus what God sees' Encourage the groups to come up with their own titles, but offer these as a starting point and directional steer for their creativity.

✘ Bring together:

1. Bring the groups together and ask each to show the others what they have come up with. Can the group as a whole see a connection between the way we are seen by God and by other people, and the importance of making our lives count for something?
2. Read one of the following three passages and lead an informal discussion about how they relate to what you have been talking about in this session.
 - "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." (Matthew 5:15 NIV)
 - "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand?" (Mark 4:21 NIV)
 - "No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light." (Luke 11:33 NIV)

✘ Prayer:

Use the graffiti wall and the cartoon as a focus for a few moments of quiet prayer, asking the group to take something from what they see before them about someone in the group, and give it to God.

✘ Development activity:

- Encourage the group to get hold of the *Prince Caspian* novel by C. S. Lewis and read it.
- Ask them to think about the movie throughout the week and to come back for the next Sunday session with at least three other themes or ideas that they identified in the film. Make some time in next week's meeting for the group as a whole to discuss some of these.

✘ Midweek Meeting: Live a Life That's Noticed

✘ Group warm up:

Use one of the following two icebreakers. The first is for a group that's pretty confident with each other, the other for those not so.

Sing a Tune:

Give everyone a scrap of paper with a song title on it (make sure that the songs are well known and current or this could go horribly wrong!), with three or four others receiving the same song. The deal here is that rather than telling people their song, each person has to go around humming it until they find the others with the same tune. You can then, if you wish, get each group to perform their tune for the rest to guess what it is. Award extra points for tunefulness, good stage presence and any other criteria that occurs to you!

Partner TV Commercials:

Divide into pairs. One member of the pair has to interview the other for two minutes before swapping roles. Once everyone has been interviewed, give everyone a few minutes to come up with a TV ad for their partner! Encourage some people to demonstrate their advert to the rest of the group.

✘ Intro:

1. Split the group into twos or threes. Give each five minutes to come up with a 100-word review of the film *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*. If you can, provide them with copies of reviews for *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* and other movies from magazines, newspapers or websites such as www.rottentomatoes.com.
2. Get each group to read their review out (if they're happy to do so). Alternatively, get the reviews and print them off as a group review sheet/email.

✘ Film Clips:

1. Show the clip **Who lived here**.
2. Introduce the idea to the group that what we do in our lives can last for years, both the good and the bad, and that what we're doing as we live is very similar to building up a time capsule. If a time capsule of your life was discovered in 1000 years, what would it tell people about you?

✘ Group activity:

1. Split into small groups and give each group a sealable box per person (such as one from a Chinese takeaway, for example) which is to be their own time capsule. Get the groups to list what they would put in it to show people in the future the person they were, the life they were living and why.
2. Ask the groups to reduce the number of items in their box to five.
3. Give out additional boxes (enough for one each) and tell the group that everyone should bring back their own completed time capsule the following week. The aim will be to place them somewhere safe and then open them in exactly a year's time, at a time capsule party! Don't forget to make a note in your diary to organise the party at the appropriate time.

✘ Bring together:

1. Present the group with a night light candle on a plate. Light it, then hide it under a bowl. Turn the lights off (briefly!)
2. Ask what you did wrong (obvious answer: lit the candle then covered it up so the light wasn't visible).
3. Suggest that this is just like somebody who has a talent or a skill which they never do anything with. Just living a life without ever letting their light shine.
4. Read one of the following three passages and lead an informal discussion about how they relate to what you have been talking about in this session.
5. *"Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house".* (Matthew 5:15 NIV)
6. *"Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand?"* (Mark 4:21 NIV)
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✘ Prayer:

Ask God to help the group realise their own talents and not to hide them.

✘ Development activity:

1. Ask the group to think of their own talents, to identify one thing in particular that they want to develop, and then see how they do over the course of a week, or a month, or a year. Their progress could be recorded as a video or photo diary, and shared with the group.
2. Encourage the group to get a hold of the *Prince Caspian* novel by C. S. Lewis and read it.

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