

## AT THE MOVIES

Saving Mr. Banks

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Discussion Notes

The Crossing Church

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### OPENING

Everyone loves a good story. Jesus was the master storyteller and, when He talked about spiritual truths, He used modern day stories to bring truth to life. Movies are like modern day parables and we are using these modern day stories to help us understand spiritual truths. This is the final week of our "At the Movies" series and it has been a lot of fun discovering Biblical truths in the midst of stories that are prevalent in our culture.

### SCRIPTURE<sup>1</sup>

**Jeremiah 18:1-5** "This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 'Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message.' So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me. He said, 'Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?' declares the LORD. 'Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.' "

**Isaiah 43:18-19** "Forget the former things. Do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

**Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)** "I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus is calling us."

**John 1:5 (NLT)** "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it."

### OBSERVATION

In "Saving Mr. Banks", a woman named Pamela Travers, kept refusing to sell to Walt Disney the movie rights to *Mary Poppins*. It turns out that her relationship with her alcoholic father, who had difficulty keeping his promises to her, was impacting her ability to trust all men, including Walt Disney. She was afraid that she couldn't trust him to present her characters as she originally wrote them.

Just as with Ms. Travers, our past paints our present and future and influences our judgments and decisions.

**Question:** How does your past paint your present and your future?

Our past impacts who we ARE, but it should never limit who we CAN become.

**Question:** If you could go back and change or recreate your past, what would you do?

### APPLICATION

We all have an IT - that thing in our past that has the potential to paralyze our future.

**Question:** What is that thing in your past that has the potential to paralyze your future? Can you name it?

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<sup>1</sup> All scripture listed is NIV unless otherwise indicated

Some of the deepest wounds we carry are self-inflicted. When we are dealing with whatever IT is from our past, we have a tendency to hide IT, or we try to fix IT. Whenever the pain of the past clouds our hope for the future we need a new perspective. That perspective begins to shift when we stop hiding IT, stop fixing IT, and let God REDEEM IT.

**Question:** If you are ready to be redeemed, what form will your surrender take?

We can hide the pieces and keep pretending everything is okay or we can say to the potter, “Can you make this into another jar, one that seems right to You so that our prior form is not our final form?”

God is the potter and we are the clay. We are being molded, crafted, and made as God sees fit, but as the clay, we have to allow ourselves to be formed. God says, “Don’t dwell on the past, but let Me mold your future. Let Me redeem what is your past and rewrite the narrative of your future.”

**Question:** If you are truly ready to let God rewrite your story, how do you know?

God offers:

- Healing;
- Hope;
- Forgiveness;
- Grace;
- Freedom from hurt;

Just as Ms. Travers grew to trust Walt Disney with her precious *Mary Poppins* creation, we need to trust God with our new creation. He is not disappointed in us, and we know this because He is not surprised by our sin and brokenness.

**Question:** How can you stop letting your past limit what God wants you to become?

As God rewrites the story of our lives, His light shines through the very dark spaces and places.

**Question:** If you are ready to be redeemed from your past, how do you think God’s light will shine through?

## **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, our past lives have their ITs and they haunt us. We can’t imagine that You aren’t disappointed in us and we think You can’t use us because of them. Then we remember that You love us beyond our ability to comprehend and that all things are possible with You. Thank you that, at last, we can surrender our past histories to You and move forward, shining Your light throughout the world. In Jesus name. Amen.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Global Leadership Summit is being hosted by The Crossing on August 11 and 12. In a simulcast format, world class speakers will challenge you and give you the opportunity to influence those around you. Registration is available online at [www.thecrossinglv.com](http://www.thecrossinglv.com).