



Bruce Almighty

PG 13 – 2003

Overview

Bruce Almighty stars Jim Carrey as Bruce Nolan, a discontented man who accuses God of doing a bad job running the universe. When God gives Bruce his powers to see if he can do a better job, Bruce eventually realizes that love and humility are more important than getting your way.

Discussion Guide

- Problems and Injustice (Job 30:20–23, 42:1–9; Isaiah 45:7; Matthew 5:11–12; Acts 5:40–41; 1 Peter 2:20)
 - Communication with God (Daniel 6:10; Matthew 6:9–13; Luke 18:1–14; James 5:13–16)
 - God's Active Presence in Our Lives (Psalm 139:7–10; Zechariah 2:10–13; Matthew 18:20; Luke 17:20–21; Romans 8:38–39)
 - God's Goodness (Deuteronomy 32:1–4; Psalm 84:11; 2 Peter 1:3–10)
1. Reviewer Holly McClure (*Crosswalk*) said: "Although you may not approve of all the questionable elements that are in this movie or support the way the story is told, this movie does have the potential to reach people who would never step inside a church, listen to Christian radio or watch Christian television. It will leave you thinking about the spiritual elements long after you've left the theater." Why would this be true? Or why not?
 2. At first, Bruce experiments with his godly powers in juvenile ways. Why do suppose that was the case? Was it just for the laughs?
 3. Could the story have been told without the objectionable content? (you don't need to discuss the objectionable content – it's there and we all know it's there ☺)
 4. Do you feel the movie disrespected God's power? Why or why not?
 5. Where does Jesus fit in to the movie's plot? Does He figure into it?
 6. One reviewer said, "For all its potential minus points, the scale tips to the plus side because it is a positive—and entertaining—witness to the attributes of God, who is present to creation and who cares about humanity. What positive attributes of God did you see within the movie? Which ones didn't come across quite right, in your opinion?"
 7. Director Tom Shadyac defended this movie this way: "We don't start with perfect people in movies. We start with imperfect people, and then they have to go on a journey. Let's read the Bible and see how many people cohabitated and did imperfect things. There is shadow in the movie, and the shadow helps the light. So we are not espousing any life style. We are not telling people, 'Now this is how to live!' We were telling a story." What do you think of his answer to critics?

8. At his lowest moment, Bruce challenges God: "Fine, the gloves are off. Come on, let me see a little wrath! Smite me, Almighty Smiter. You're the one who should be fired. The only one around here not doing his job is you. Answer me." Have you ever felt this way? What is the response that Bruce gets? What response does he deserve?
9. Did you learn anything new about God from this movie?
10. What do you think the average man of the street learned about God? Would you say he has a more accurate picture of who God is or a less accurate one. Or did this movie do nothing to change the mind of the average non-believing man on the street?