

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR NATIONAL TREASURE

Plugged In Review - <https://www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/nationaltreasure/>



1. In the hunt for the National Treasure, Ben Gates and his friends had to figure out a lot of tough clues using knowledge that they had built up over their lifetimes.

- What are some things in our lives where we need to know a lot to do them well?
- Are there places in our spiritual lives where this is true as well?
- Does your relationship with God ever feel like a treasure hunt where you don't have enough information?
- Read II Peter 1:3 - Where do we get the information and strength we need to be successful in our life with God?

2. Riley knew something about daylight savings time all his expert friends did not.

- Do you most often feel like Ben & Abigail (who know "smart" things) or Riley (who knows other important stuff but is not often seen as the smart one) with your friends?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of each character?
- What are some things that you contribute to others that are unique to you?
- Could any single one of Ben's gang have finished the hunt without all the others?
- What would cause us to fail to see the strengths of others or our own?

3. Ian (the bad guy) and his gang make things hard for Ben all along the way.

- What are some challenges you have faced recently?
- How do friends and family help in those hard times?
- What are the things that make finding God challenging at times?

4. FBI agent Sandusky doesn't know whether to help or arrest Ben and his friends.

- Are there people in your life who don't quite know how to take the decisions you make because you follow Jesus?
- How do you win them over as an ally rather than an opponent?

5. What "treasures," besides the obvious big one at the end, did Ben find along the hunt?

6. In the end, the bad guys are hauled off to jail and Ben and his friends get a big reward for finding the treasure.

- Is this how life always ends up?
- Is this how eternity ends up?
- Which reward are we going for; this life or eternity?

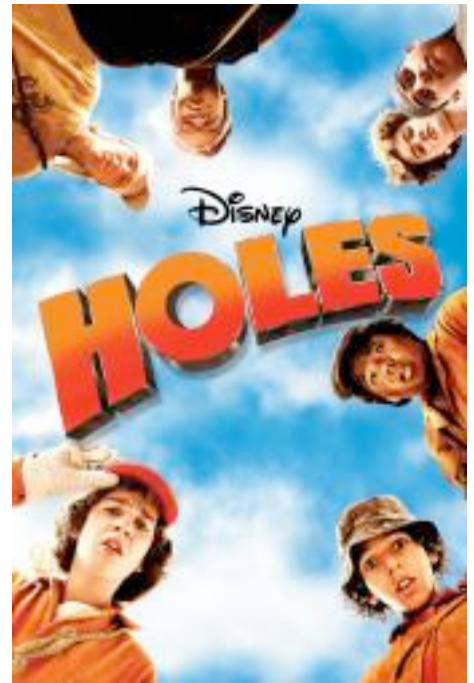


DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR HOLES

Plugged In Review - <https://www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/holes/>

1. Stanley Yelnats' family struggles for generations because of the failure of his great-great-grandfather to keep a promise.

- Are there times that we are impacted by the decisions that previous generations have made for good or bad? (Not magic and curses maybe, but consequences of decisions.)
- Are there things in your life you wrestle with or ways you benefit because of what has been handed to you by previous generations of family members?
- Do we remember how far our decisions reach and how many people they affect?



2. Green Lake was a flourishing town until it too fell under a curse.

- How can our bad decisions even impact whole communities at times?

3. Zero doesn't look important or strong, but he is a great friend to Stanley.

- Do we ever pass people up because of first appearances?
- In what other instances in the movie do first appearances lead to wrong conclusions?
- How is this also true at times in our hunt for what is important for God?

4. When Stanley carries Zero up Thumb Mountain, he breaks the curse by that simple act of kindness.

- What are some small acts of kindness can undo brokenness in people's life?
- Do we remember the big changes our small acts of kindness can make in people's lives?

5. A theme in this movie is how your past does or does not define you.

- Where do you see the past defining people in the movie?
- Where do you see them break free of their past curses?
- How can we break free of the "curses" of our past?

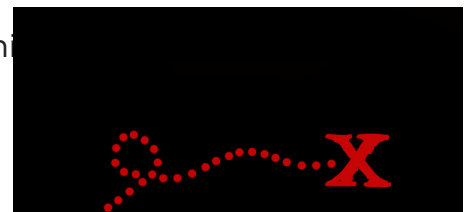
6. Louise Walker & her crew are focused on the treasure and don't get it. Stanley & Zero are taking care of each other and just stumble across it.

- What is the message here?
- How does God lead us to treasure when our focus is on what is most valuable to Him?

7. What "treasures," besides the obvious treasure chest, did Stanley find along the way?

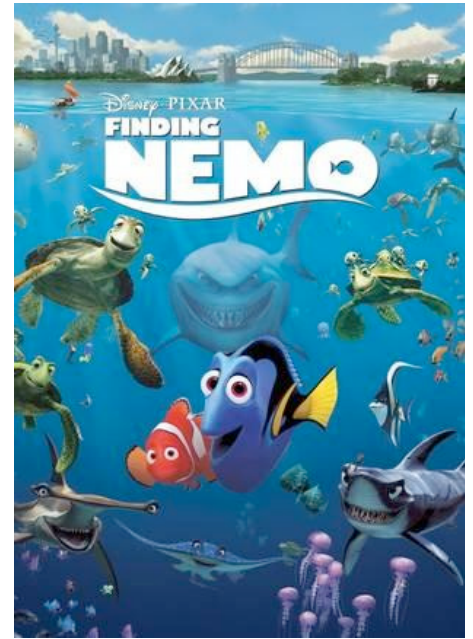
8. In the end, the bad guys are hauled off to jail and Ben and his crew are hauled off to jail for finding the treasure.

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DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR FINDING NEMO

Plugged In Review - <https://www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/findingnemo/>



1. Marlin sets out on a hunt, but not for the normal kind of treasure.

- What was the “treasure” that Marlin is searching for?
- Why do we often miss how important our family is until we are not with them?
- What are some “treasures” (important things) you have because of the family you are a part of?

2. Marlin & Dori face a lot of challenges while they are searching for Nemo, but they don’t give up.

- What are some of the challenges they face?
- What are some challenges you have faced?
- What makes us want to beat challenges in our lives?
- How important is persistence and patience to finding “treasure” (good things) in our lives?

3. When Marlin and Dori get swallowed by a Blue Whale, Dori shows that she really does speak whale.

- Why do we sometimes hide a talent we have that could make a big difference in other people’s lives?
- Why do you think God give us “strange” talents at times?
- Do you have any strange talents?
- Do you ever feel that your strange talents are not very useful?
- Is it hard to wait to find out why God gave you certain talents and interests?

4. When Marlin & Dori meet the sharks, they are scared. But it ends up that they are nice sharks who have decided not to eat fish.

- Have you ever decided you don’t like someone or are scared of them because they are different than you?
- How does that keep us from people who could be good friends sometimes?

5. What “treasures,” besides just Nemo, did Marlin find along the way?



DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR LUCKY'S TREASURE

1. In the movie, the treasure was hidden in plain sight the whole time, but people kept looking in the ground where treasure usually is found.

- Where do we usually expect value and treasure to be found in this life?
- How do our expectations keep us from finding all God has for us at times?
- Where should we be looking for God's treasure?

2. Linsey (the mean girl) and her brother Trent make things hard all along the way for Emily and her grandfather. Later, we find that Emily's grandfather is also having financial troubles.

- What are some challenges you have faced recently?
- How do friends and family help in those hard times?
- What are the things that make finding God challenging at times?

3. Emily's grandfather is pretty grumpy at the beginning because he is still hurting from his wife's death.

- How does Emily win her grandfather over?
- What is the difference between those who oppose you because they are hurting rather than because they are being selfish?
- How do we win people over as allies and friends when they oppose us?
- How is this also finding treasure in our lives?

4. At one point, Emily's grandfather says, "Most things of value in this life take effort."

- How have you found this to be true in your life?
- What is the most important treasure to God?
- What kinds of efforts does it take to uncover these people treasures for God's kingdom?

5. The obvious treasure of the coin is found, but what other "treasures" do our two main characters find over the course of the story?

- Emily?
- Emily's grandfather?

6. In the end, the bad guys are hauled off to jail and Ben and his friends get a big reward for finding the treasure.

- Is this how life always ends up?
- Is this how eternity ends up?
- Which reward are we going for; this life or eternity?

