

@THE MOVIES | The Divine Comedy | Week 1 | August 3/4

John 21:25

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Guest Speaker Bio: Art Bamford earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Calvin College, a master's of divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary and a master's in mass communication and media studies from the University of Denver. His areas of research interest are media and religion, media ecology, rhetoric and music history.

Opening: We each live a story. We bump into other people and their stories every day—that's life. However, we all live within a broader story that weaves through our individual stories and provides a greater purpose and meaning to all our endeavors. We need to be attentive to see the movies being played for us and through us. We are viewing the work of the "Great Producer" and author of life. If only we can wake up to it, the movie is playing before us every day. The reality is that we can find God in everything. And the movie we see can teach us to see God at work within our story and His weaving of our story with others.

Reflect: Read John 21:25. The concluding verse of the Gospel of John is rich with implication.

- Journal or Share what especially intrigues you about this closing quote.
- What surprised you? *Why?*

The Reason: What if we had a complete record? We are blessed to have scripture but it only begins to describe the indescribable.

- Journal or share how you respond to finite vs. infinite; contained vs. limitless.
- Which category had you put scripture into? Have you tried to box the Triune God into one Holy Book?

The Purpose: Read John 20:30-31.

- What does this say about life? What manner of life is intended?
- Journal or share the richness you have experienced in life this week.



Life in Abundance: Our life, our current life, our everyday life is our movie. Read John 14:26-27. Jesus has provided a co-producer for our story.

- What is Jesus' encouragement?
- How does He characterize our life?
- Do you experience Peace and absence of fear? Why or why not?

Fullness: Read Eph 3:14-20. Knowing what surpasses knowledge.

- Journal or share what strikes you about this prayer for the saints.
- What implications does it have for your "life"?

Practice of the Week: Journal your story each day for the week. What happened yesterday; chronological order, bullet point detail. Don't let it take too long. Now reflect on the narrative you see in the day's story. What was your goal? Who were the people in the way? Who were the people helping you reach your goal? Did you see their story? Can you now see their story? Was God's story intertwining with yours? Now try to view all this through the lens of the Ephesians passage above. Would you do anything different? Do you see anything different?

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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