

To Save a Life Movie Discussion Guide

Week 1: Play Movie from Beginning through Jake's girlfriend coming to Youth Group & Storming Out

Use the following to help guide discussion amongst youth...

INTRODUCTION

- What really stuck out to you from the movie so far?
- Do you feel the movie is an accurate portrayal of teenage life? Why or why not? How is "reality" different than the movie?
- How realistic is this movie to **your** life? (What parts?)
- Which character do you most relate to and why?
- Which do you think is worse – doing bad or doing nothing?

SUICIDE

- What were Roger's other choices (other than suicide)?
- When the tough stuff hits – how do **you** deal? To whom do **you** turn?
- When we are at the end of our rope, do we turn to God? Why or why not? What do you think Roger was looking for when he went to youth group?

PAIN/SUFFERING

- Why is there so much pain, hurt, and suffering in the world? And why doesn't God stop it?
- Sometimes I wonder if God isn't asking us that, too – why don't you stop it (pain, hurt, suffering)? How can you work to alleviate pain, hurt, and suffering in the world today?

SELF-WORTH

- What would you be willing to do for \$100?
- Think of your best friend. What would you be willing to trade them for? (Example – Jake traded Roger for the pretty girl and popularity).
- If we so easily are willing to put a price on others – what do you think you are worth?
- Jesus died for you because you are worth it. Knowing this ... what do you owe Jesus? (Jake felt like he 'owed' something to Roger for Roger having saved his life). Your life should be a response to Jesus' sacrifice and love for you.

Week 2: Replay the Youth Group Scene through the End of the Movie

Use the following to help guide discussion amongst youth...

INTRODUCTION

- What really stuck out to you from this part of the movie? After seeing the movie as a whole, what was one message or point that you took with you?

- Do you feel the movie is an accurate portrayal of teenage life? Why or why not? How is “reality” different than the movie?
- How realistic is this movie to your life? (What parts?)
- Last week, which character did you most relate to? Now that you’ve seen the movie in its entirety, has your answer changed? Why or why not?
- Through the course of the movie, Jake undergoes a change. In your own life, when did you transition from “old Jake to new Jake.”

OWNERSHIP OF FAITH/PRAYER

- “You don’t really seem like the Christian type.” What does that look like?
- *Jake asks Chris, ‘Why are there fakers?’ and Chris responds ‘I know there are fakers. But it’s not about them, it’s about YOU – what are YOU going to do? What do YOU want YOUR life to be about?’*
 - How do you deal knowing that there are some ‘religious fakers’?
- What do you want your life to be about?
- In being Christian, what things are you called to give up? Does being a Christian call you to something more? Like what?
- Would you do what is right at any cost? Explain.
- *Jake comments to Chris that his life was ‘just fine’ before he started dealing with all the church stuff; Chris responds that ‘God wants so much more for your life than just fine.’*
 - What areas of your life do you hold back from giving over to God? What areas of your life do you struggle giving God control of? (What sins do you struggle with giving up?)
- If you knew that God was going to make something amazing out of your life, but it meant you were going to have to struggle for a period of time beforehand, would you go forward with it giving God control or stay where you are?
- Does your relationship with Jesus make a difference? Why? Would your life be at all different without Him? [If you’re not sold out on your relationship with Him, why would anyone else be?]

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

- As you can see in the movie, Jake is lost without a solid support system. Who makes up Jake’s support system by the end of the movie?
- Who makes up your support system?
- If a you or a friend were struggling with anything (from a minor problem to something that was life threatening – suicide, cutting, depression, drinking/drugs, sex, etc.) – to whom would you go to?