

“LIFEMARK”

Movie Discussion Guide

“Lifemark” is a film that shares the life and journey of David, a young man adopted as an infant who meets his birth parents when he is 18 years old. The themes of adoption and family, empathy, identity, thankfulness for gifts from God, the precious gift of life, and forgiveness emerge throughout the film. Below are questions to ponder as you engage in a discussion about these themes.

(A Bible study on “Lifemark” and adoption is available at <https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/lifemark-movie-bible-study>.)

Can you empathize with the characters and understand the fears, uncertainties, losses and struggles they face? Have you experienced similar feelings or struggles? How do you support friends and family who lean on you for help? What Bible passages comfort you in such times?

ADOPTION AND FAMILY

(GEN. 1:27-28; GAL. 4:4-5; PSALM 127:3-5)

Why do you think that David says he had trouble sharing with others that he was adopted? In what ways was David’s adoption a blessing to him, Melissa and Brian, and Susan and Jimmy? How is your adoption through the work of Christ a blessing to you?

IDENTITY

(ISAIAH 43:4; JER. 1:5; JOHN 15:12-17; ROM. 8:16-17; 1 COR. 12:13; GAL. 3:26-29; TITUS 3:5)

What do you think David means when he says that at times he did not “fit in” and that there was a “missing piece of the puzzle” in his life because he was adopted? Can you empathize with David? Have you ever been in a situation where you felt the same way? Where do you find comfort knowing that your identity is rooted in Christ?

EMPATHY

(JOHN 15:12-17; GAL. 6:2; 1 COR. 12:12-26; 2 COR. 1:3-4; EPH. 4:32)

Throughout the film, viewers hear the different viewpoints of several characters. David and other characters experience great joy, but they also find themselves in difficult situations amidst challenges and/or suffering in their lives. Consider David, his biological parents, his adoptive parents and others in the film.



THANKFULNESS FOR GIFTS FROM GOD

(COL. 3:16; 1 THESS. 5:16-18)

David, his biological parents, his adoptive parents and other relatives are thankful for the blessings bestowed upon them. For what is each character thankful? What are some unexpected joys that the characters have throughout the film? How does the film convey that having a family is a gift from God? What are you thankful to God for in your life? How do you share this thankfulness with others every day?

THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF LIFE

(GEN. 1:26-28; EX. 20:13; PSALM 100:3; PSALM 139:13-16)

Melissa and Brian contemplate aborting David, but Melissa decides that she wants to do what's best for the baby. What challenges does Melissa face with her unplanned pregnancy? Why do you think that there is secrecy when unwed mothers become pregnant? What cultural ideas in our society today might influence a mother to abort her child, and how as Christians can we counteract such ideas? What challenges do you face as you speak up for the value of human life?

FORGIVENESS

(MATT. 5:21-24; MATT. 6:14-15; 2 COR. 5:17-21; COL. 3:3; JAMES 5:16)

The desire for reconciliation, forgiveness and absolution is an important theme in the movie. Melissa suffers from guilt for having given David up for adoption and asks for his forgiveness. David needs absolution from Susan and Jimmy as he prepares to meet Melissa and Brian, and he needs them to understand that he will always consider them his "real parents." Such forgiveness allows for relationships to be built. Can you recall a time in your life where you needed to ask for forgiveness in order to restore a relationship? Or when you were asked for forgiveness? As children reconciled with God because of Christ's sacrifice, how can we reconcile ourselves with others?
