

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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LITTLE BOY

FAITH MOVES MOUNTAINS. KINDNESS MOVES HEARTS.



IN THEATERS APRIL 24
LITTLEBOYRESOURCES.COM



A man in a military uniform, seen from the back, is holding a young child. They are standing in front of a wooden fence. A sign on the fence partially reads "BEN".

LITTLE BOY is a powerful and moving, utterly unique story that will warm your heart and lift your spirits. This inspiring tale follows a young child who will stop at nothing to bring his dad home from World War II alive. Set in the 40s, the story reveals the indescribable love between a father and his son. Little Boy is a cinematic classic that captures the wonder of life through the eyes of an 8-year-old child. From the filmmakers who brought you Bella, winner of the prestigious Toronto Film Festival People's Choice Award, comes Little Boy, featuring an all-star cast, including two Oscar® nominees; directed by Smithsonian Institute Award-winning director Alejandro Monteverde; produced by Eduardo Verástegui and Leo Severino; and written by Alejandro Monteverde and Pepe Portillo.



IN THEATERS APRIL 24

LITTLE BOY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

BELIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE



LITTLE BOY IS
CHALLENGED BY
HIS BROTHER TO
MOVE THE
MOUNTAIN.

MOVE THE MOUNTAIN

Have faith when you're alone.



Scene:

Little Boy is caught by his brother walking with Hashimoto. The brother verbally assaults Hashimoto and Little Boy interjects. The two argue and finally Little Boy's brother tells him that he's living in a fantasy world, that his faith can't bring his father back, and that if he can move a mountain, he should prove it by moving the mountain beyond the town. Little Boy aims his hands at the mountain and . . . the ground itself begins to shake.

Scripture:

Matthew 17:20 (NRSV)

He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Hebrews 1:1-3, 6 (NRSV)

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible . . . 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Questions to reflect upon:

What does it mean to have faith?

Why is faith so important in our relationship with God? Why does God put so much focus on faith?

One way of defining faith is trusting in what God has promised us.

Faith is not simply belief in the unseen. It is belief in the promises of God, whom we have relationship with.

Have you ever looked at faith in this way? How does seeing faith as an expression of trust help you understand faith in your own life?

How does this definition clarify and reflect Hebrews 11:6: "And without faith it is impossible to please God . . . "?

When have you struggled with faith in your own life? Are there times in the past where faith was harder for you than it is now?

What helps you personally to grow in your faith?

Which of God's promises do you struggle to trust in?

When have you had faith in God and seen the results of that faith?

When have you had to have faith, but struggled because most everything around you made that faith difficult?

How has your faith influenced others around you?

What challenge or "mountain" are you facing now that you need faith to conquer?

**Teachable Concepts:**

1. Standing in faith often requires us to continue to trust God even when our surroundings don't reinforce that.
2. God requires faith—just a small amount of faith in Him can result in great things.
3. Our faith helps us accomplish God's plan in people's lives.
4. Faith is assurance of what God has promised.
5. Faith is trust in the promises of our Father.

Overseas Post Card**Final Personal Thought and Prayer:**

God, thank you for your promises! Thank you for being faithful to your Word and to your promises. Thank you for your blessings in our life. May we have a faith based on trust in you. Help us to believe even when everything around us is difficult.



LITTLE BOY
IS GIVEN
THE LIST.

THE LIST

Following the example of Christ.



Scene:

Father Oliver assigns Little Boy a list of “acts of kindness” to help temper his hate. “The List” consists of: Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, and burying the dead. Father Oliver adds an essential item—befriend Hashimoto. He explains that acts of kindness are useless if done with even the slightest hate.

LittleBoyResources.com/TheList

Scripture:*Matthew 25:34-45 (NRSV)*

34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." 37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" 40 And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." 44 Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" 45 Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

Questions to reflect upon:

Review The List that Father Oliver gave to Little Boy:

Feed the hungry

Shelter the homeless

Visit those in prison

Clothe the naked

Visit the sick

Bury the dead

Befriend Hashimoto

Which of these have you actually practiced? How did that change your life? Have you done it more than once? If you've done more than one on The List, which was the most difficult? Why did you struggle with that one?

Is there any item on The List you've avoided? Why?

What about the final addition to The List—"Befriend your enemy"—have you practiced this one?

Why was it critical for Little Boy to befriend Hashimoto, the enemy of the town? Why was this particularly hard for him?

Think about someone you consider an enemy: someone who has hurt you, someone who dislikes you, someone who stands for something you oppose. Would it be difficult for you to befriend them? If you did reach out to become their friend, what difference would it make in their life? What difference would it make in your life?

In the next week, choose one item from The List and find a way to exercise it. Visit a homeless shelter and serve. Find a way to demonstrate God's love in a very tangible way to those who need it.

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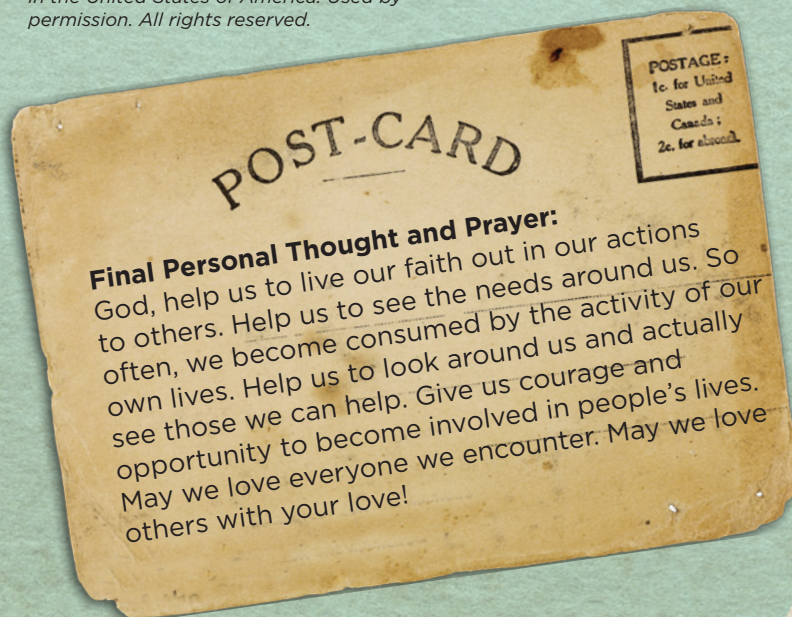
Scripture:*1 John 4:7-12,19-21 (NRSV)*

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. . . . 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Teachable Concepts:

1. We exercise our faith by giving love to others.
2. Our love for others reflects our love for God.
3. Christ asks us to tangibly demonstrate love to those outside of our normal "circles" of connection.

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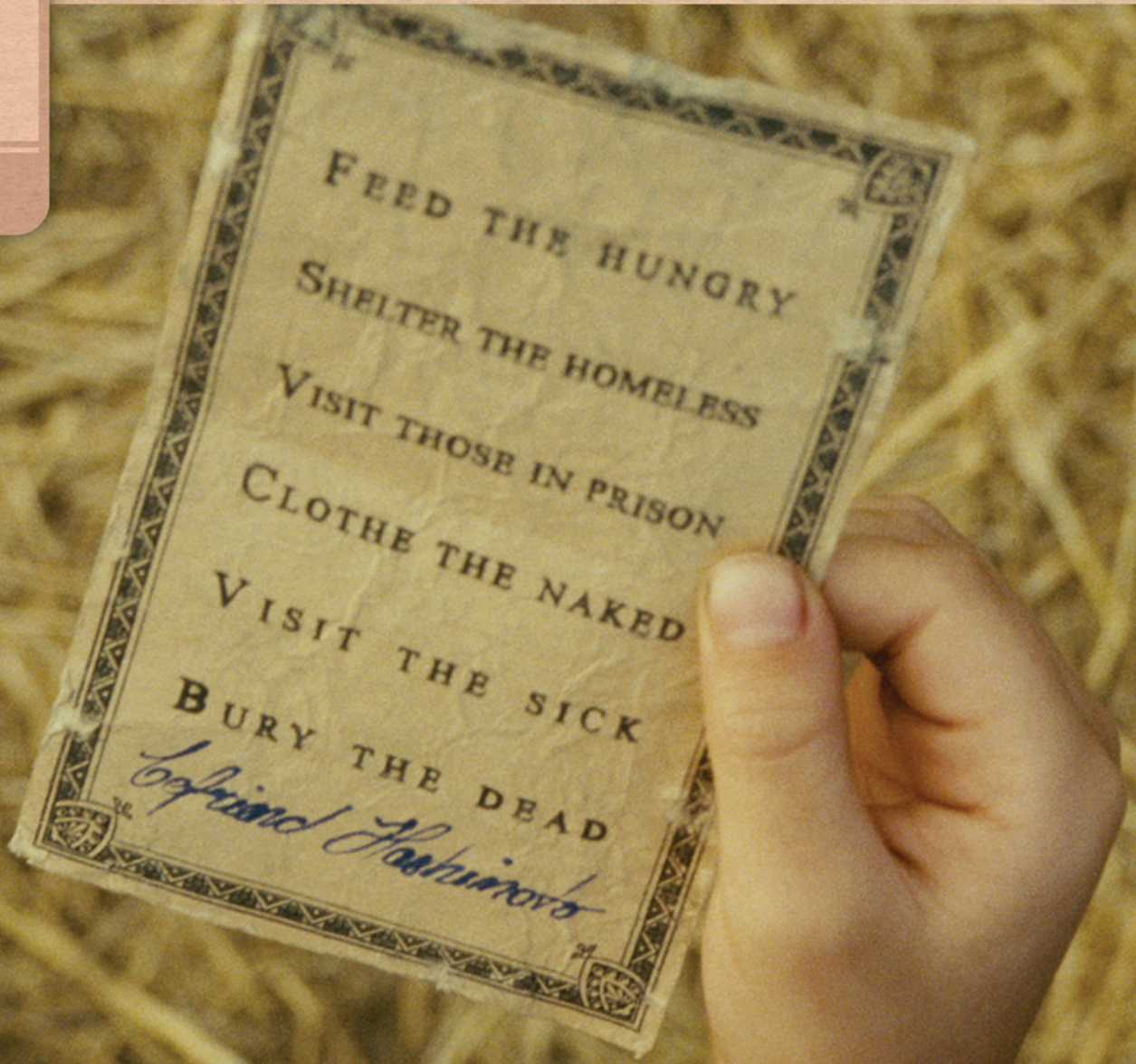




LITTLE BOY
FINISHES THE
LIST WITH
HASHIMOTO

FINISHING THE LIST

We are to bear one another's burdens.



Scene:

Over several days, Hashimoto and Little Boy begin tackling The List that Father Oliver gave him. One by one, they accomplish the items on The List. Hashimoto helps him creatively think of ways to accomplish some items that seem completely impossible. Accomplishing the tasks on The List helps Little Boy achieve the final handwritten task: befriend Hashimoto.

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Scripture:

Matthew 17:20 (NRSV)

2 Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. 4 All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. 5 For all must carry their own loads. 6 Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. 7 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. 8 If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9 So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. 10 So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Questions to reflect upon:

Have you ever been on a team before? How did that experience go? Was it positive? Was it negative? If it was negative, how much did selfishness on the part of individual members influence that?

It's been said that the "Christian life" is a team sport. Do you agree? In what ways could that be true?

In your own life, when did you need the help of others? Did people help? How did other people's involvement change your life?

Do you struggle to ask for help in your life? If so, why is it difficult to ask for help?

Do you appreciate the people that God has placed in your life? What ways have people helped you that you have overlooked?

When have you had a chance to help someone out and chosen not to? Why didn't you help? What could've happened had you become involved in that moment?

When have you chosen to help someone? What was the outcome of that?

In your life right now, what needs are there that you could help with?

Do you know the "burdens" those around you are facing? If you don't know, why not?

If you're studying this as a group, ask each other if they are any "burdens" or "difficulties" people are facing that they could use help with.

Which of these could you pray as a group for right now? Pray for those together.

Choose right now a time to focus on helping someone else throughout the week.

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Teachable Concepts:

1. Faith is a team effort.
2. We are to physically help others.
3. Our life is best lived when we live it in service to others.
4. How we give in service to others will come back in our own life by how we receive: we reap what we sow.

Overseas Post Card

Final Personal Thought and Prayer:

God, thank you for the people you have placed around us. Thank you for the times you've sent people to help us. Help us to actively help those around us. Help us to see those around us as people we are to love. Help us to ask others around us what they need help with.



LITTLE BOY &
HASHIMOTO AND
THE STORY OF
THE SAMURAI

MEASURE YOURSELF TO THE SKY

Who are you in God's eyes?



Scene:

Hashimoto tells Little Boy the story of a Samurai warrior. Maso Kumai was not a great warrior. He was small, powerless, and nothing but a servant. Yet, in every man's life, there comes a day of truth. Hashimoto describes the day of decision for the young warrior—the day he chose to be more than his station in life. Hashimoto tells Little Boy to not measure himself from the top of his head to the floor, but to measure himself from the top of his head to the sky. Using this measurement, Little Boy is the tallest boy in town!



Scripture:**1 Samuel 16:7 (NRSV)**

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Psalms 139:13-16 (NRSV)

13 For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

Questions to reflect upon:

If you were to describe yourself to someone, what words would you use? How many of those words are negative?

How would those closest to you describe you? Would those descriptions be more positive or more negative than your own description?

In your past, what negative words have been spoken to or about you? How have those words affected you?

What negative word(s) do you say to yourself throughout the week?

Why do people's opinions affect us so much?

Have you ever had a moment where you failed to do something because of self-doubt?

If you could have coffee with God and ask him how he sees you, what do you think he would say?

In that same conversation, if you could ask him what he sees your future to be, what would he say?

If you are doing this discussion in a group, end your time together with an encouragement moment. Go around and have everyone say something they value or appreciate in that person. Do this for each person. Keep the answers short, but be honest and heartfelt.

**Teachable Concepts:**

1. God does not base our future on other people's opinions of us.
2. God is concerned about our heart; not our appearance.
3. God created each of us uniquely.
4. God has a plan for our lives.

Final Personal Thought and Prayer:

God, thank you for carefully making each of us. Thank you for knowing our hearts. Thank you for not judging our lives the way that others do. Thank you for designing a plan for our lives. God, help us to see ourselves through your eyes. Help us to put aside negative thinking about ourselves and others. Help us to also continue to encourage those around us. Keep our focus on positive, life-building words and not on negative, destructive comments.



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