



STUDY GUIDE

May 2, 2021

Message Series:

At the Movies

Message Title:

Avengers Endgame

Teaching Pastor:

Elijah Schiarelli

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Would you rather be a Jedi in Star Wars or be a Hobbit in Lord of the Rings?

Would you rather be a member of the Avengers or be a member of the Justice League?

Would you rather attend Hogwarts in Harry Potter or go to Narnia in the Chronicles of Narnia?

Would you rather be a famous director or a famous actor?

Pray:

Dear Lord, clear our hearts and minds so that we can give You our full focus. Thank You for this time together. Let us tune into the peace You give us, as we learn how to stand firm in faith no matter what our circumstances. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started:

"The truth is, this struggle goes on today, in the battle for our souls. Instead of superheroes, the players in this conflict are God v. the devil. Good v. evil. Righteousness v. sin. We've all felt it before, tugging at us on the inside. This battle manifests itself often in the choices we make or situations we get ourselves into. Generosity v. greed. Empathy v. judgement. Humility v. ego. Each one trying to pull us to the other side in order to take ownership of our lives. If you're anything like me, then you and I have let the wrong side of this fight win on far too many occasions." -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Read Romans 7:15-25.

- Discuss what you think Paul means by his confession. Can you relate?

Read Galatians 5:16-17.

- According to these verses, what is going on inside every Christian? What are some practical results of the conflict? What is encouraging about this? What is challenging?
- If comfortable, what is one change you desire to take place as a result of reading these verses?

Watch and Discuss Video: (running time 9:39 minutes)

"When we are overcome by the evil that wants to take us down, we often end up in a place where we have the same thought as we did finishing the Old Testament or watching the credits of Infinity War, "It wasn't supposed to end like this." The good news is, this thought happens at the end of part 1. But...Part two is coming." --Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Read John 16:32-33.

- Describe your experience of living in the "already" and the "not yet" that Pastor Elijah spoke about. Is there tension there?

Reflect and Commit:

Romans 12:21 and Ephesians 6:10-20.

- How do these verses cause you to think differently about a problem or situation you may face this week or one you have faced in the past? If time allows, share those situations.
- What happens when we only put on part of the armor? Which piece needs more focus in your life? What is one step you can take to move toward wearing this armor?

As the Marvel Cinematic Universe continues on, there will be more villains. More evil to destroy. This is true in our lives, too. Many of us feel very much caught in the middle of the fight for our souls right now. Beaten down by the scathing words of someone else. Chained up by the sins we've committed. Tethered to a past full of pain and regret. Scarred by our ruptured relationships, fractured families, and damaged dreams. Even though Jesus eradicated evil's power over us on the cross, it still fights to win us over. But because of Jesus, you can make sure it never wins. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that, "no weapon formed against [us] will prevail", and Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, puts it this way, "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57 (NIV)

Pray:

Dear Lord, Sometimes life feels like a war where we are fighting both internal and external battles. Please help us to actively remember that You have already won, that we are victorious in You. Help us to stand, in full armor, stronger than any superhero. Let us cling to the truth that we have an everlasting hope that You are with us and that we have an assurance that one day we will get to be with You forever. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Movie trivia:

- Robert Downey Jr. once told Anthony Russo and Joe Russo about how one of his children said "I love you 3000" to him. The directors liked the phrase so much that they decided to include it in the film.
- Robert Downey Jr. hid his own personal snacks all over set. The scenes where he's eating snacks and offers them to his costars were all improvised.
- This film earned \$60 million in Thursday night previews, breaking the \$57 million record held by Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens (2015).
- "Avengers: Endgame" is the first film to reach over a billion dollars during its opening weekend in theaters.
- The final showdown between Thanos, Captain America, Thor, and Iron Man was inspired by the end of Once Upon a Time in the West (1968).