



STUDY GUIDE

May 1, 2022

**Message Series:**

**AT THE MOVIES**

**Message Title:**

Green Book

**Teaching Pastor:**

Brian Hughes

**Warm-up/Icebreaker:**

Do you enjoy road trips? Do you prefer to drive or be a passenger? Briefly share a memorable road trip.

**Pray:**

Dear God, we thank You for everyone gathered here today and ask that You surround us with your powerful, life-changing presence. Thank you for loving each of us and for calling us to walk with You. We want to meet with You and know You better. So today, make clear Your message to us as we read Scripture. Fill our hearts with Your love, fill our words and conversations with truth and grace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Get Started:**

- Have you ever felt “different” in a group setting because of your race/ethnicity? How did this affect you? Does racial or ethnic identity enter in your process of making important or daily decisions? If so, how?
- How often/deeply do you interact with people of a different racial/ethnic identity other than your own? What is the nature of these relationships and interactions?
- Have you ever witnessed someone being treated unfairly because of their racial or ethnic identity? If so, how did you respond? How did it make you feel?

“You are the pinnacle of God’s creative power and because of that, you have infinite and equal value to him, as much as anyone else on the planet. We might rank importance by political office, protecting the President over the people. We might rank worth based on money, insulating the rich. We might rank value based on talent, like geniuses who can play an instrument or a sport or scientists who can solve complex problems. But through the eyes of God, the one who really matters most, you are worth as much as any of them. Your value is equal.” -Pastor Brian Hughes

**Read Acts 17:24-28 and Malachi 2:10.**

- What do we know about God? Where does God dwell? What does God need from us?

**Watch and Discuss Video:** (No follow-up videos for At the Movies)

**Reflect and Commit:**

“So Tony is beginning to see Don differently. And he’s beginning to see himself differently. They are influencing each other. To me, this is one of the greatest blessings of church. Because one of our most basic beliefs here is that everyone is broken. There are two kinds of people, broken people who know it and broken people who don’t. But everyone is broken. Here you don’t have to pretend or act like you’ve got it all together. Even when it comes to stuff in here - about the way you view yourself or the world. Am I ashamed to say that when I started this journey a few years ago, there were still remnants of racism in here? Yeah, I guess. But I’m also keenly aware that I’m not the only one with junk inside of me. Church isn’t where we come to pretend, it’s where we come to get real. And together, we get better.” -Pastor Brian Hughes

## Read Colossians 3:11-15.

- What do we learn from verse 11? What is the “therefore” there for? What kind of relationship do we have with God according to verse 12?
- How can we “put on” a heart? Why does it refer to the heart instead of behavior? How are we to treat the people around us? Why is love referred to as the perfect bond of unity?
- Which of these areas do you most need to grow in? How can you start to change?

“When you and I grow, when we become more of who God wants us to be, when we start to see other people the way that God does. It doesn’t just change us. It changes people around us. And that is why I keep talking about this. Because the world cannot be right until we don’t just know that God sees every person with equal and infinite value, but until WE see each other that way too.”  
-Pastor Brian Hughes

### Pray:

Dear Father, let what we read and talked about affect us to our core. Create a clean heart in us; change us from the inside out in any way that is needed. Let our words and actions be reflective of Your great love for all of Your people, so much so that Your love for all of those we meet is evident. Help us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience and bearing with each other in love in every area of our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

### Movie Trivia:

- According to Nick Vallelonga, Johnny Williams, the actor who played Fat Paulie (who competes against Tony in the hot dog eating contest), actually ate hot dogs with Tony Lip.
- The piano piece with which Doc wows the crowd at the bar is Frédéric Chopin's Etude Op. 25 No. 11 "Winter Wind". It is considered one of the most difficult pieces to play, earning a 9 (highest) rating on the Henle Levels of Difficulty Scale.
- Out of the eight Best Picture nominees, the film tied with *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018) for the least amount of Academy Award nominations, each at five. However, *Bohemian Rhapsody* won the most Oscars of all the nominees, winning four, while *Green Book* took Best Picture.
- According to Peter Farrelly, Viggo Mortensen was surprisingly insecure playing an Italian-American, despite being conversational in Italian. Mortensen insisted on gaining the weight to better get in character, even though Farrelly told him it was unnecessary since Mortensen looked nothing like the real Tony Lip anyway.
- Tony Lip did actually punch the police officer and consequently end up in jail with Dr. Shirley, but in real life the incident happened a year later, in the fall of 1963. This was during a separate road trip that occurred after the Christmas break featured at the end of the film. Shirley did call then-Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who helped get them out of jail. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated a few days later.
- Knowing that he would one day make a film of the story that links Don Shirley and his father, Nick Vallelonga asked the latter to tell him again what had happened during filmed interviews. He also had a long talk with Shirley. Not only his notes but also the memories of his father, such as photographs, brochures, postcards and even the road map used during their journey, nourished the writing of the scenario.