

Trinity Family Film Guide

(For use by Families or in Small School/Church Groups)

Mary Poppins: Remembering What's Important

With the help of Mary Poppins, we will be exploring the distractions of good things—like work, school, and other activities—which can divert our attention away from the most important people in our lives. Doing so, we will become more delightfully distracted with those wonderful people and have a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious time while we're at it!

Duration: 3+ hours with exercises. Can be split into multiple segments as needed.

Materials Needed: Paper, Pen or Pencil, Markers, 2 Spoons, 2 cups/containers, sugar

Recommended Movie Snack or Meal: See Tea Instructions Below

View it with a Twist (optional): Consider making the entire viewing experience a tea party.

Have everyone get dressed up and set a table for tea before the television. At each intermission, serve a new sampler dish with your tea/beverage. Some suggestions are as follows:

1st intermission – Biscuits/crackers with Jam

2nd intermission – Small sandwiches or another appetizer

3rd intermission – Veggies/fruit and dip or another appetizer

4th intermission – Cookies or cake

Note to Parents/Adults about Film Guides:

Movies are a great way to relax and spend time together as a family/group. With a little intentionality, we can make them a special place of connection and growth, as well as a joyful viewing experience. Every Family Film Guide focuses on one theme and seeks to walk adults through engaging their family/group in a growth experience around that theme. For some families/groups, these conversations might seem scary and even awkward, but take courage knowing you are setting the norm of connection and a learning heart in each of your children. If your kids seem too young or too “cool” to participate in some of these things, then at least let them see you participating. They will catch on or warm up. Also, make sure not to underestimate them. Give them plenty of opportunity to participate.

Parental Warning for *Mary Poppins*: (Suitable for All Ages)

Though there is one scene where the children are fleeing their father and running through dark alleys, which can give viewers a bit of a start, *Mary Poppins* is the most family friendly movie I know of. I show it to children of all ages without hesitation.

Before Starting:

Make sure you have read through the entire guide before starting the movie. Gather your supplies and your courage before starting. If you feel rushed going into it, slow down and just pick one or two activities to do. Then just enjoy the movie. It is better to do something well than to stress or rush through the whole thing. Plan further ahead for the next one if necessary, but **don't forget to enjoy this special time with your kids!**

Pre-Movie Exercise:

Introduction: As adults, introduce the movie and the theme of “Remembering What’s Important.”

Share: Have each member of the family/group share about their favorite family memory.

Just for Fun: Take turns poking a family/group member and saying, “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious,” (the poked person goes next) until everyone can say it or you’re laughing too hard to continue.

First Intermission:

(18 minutes, 36 seconds—after chapter 4 on scene selection)

Share: Our Distractions

Instructions: Mr. Banks is distracted by his work at the bank and his ideas of an orderly house. Mrs. Banks is distracted by her cause of women’s voting rights. None of these things are bad, but they negatively influence the connection of the family.

Step 1: Brainstorm as a family/group the probably good things which distract from the connection of your family.

Step 2: Write them down in pencil or normal pen, and save the paper. You’ll need it later!

Second Intermission:

*(36 minutes, 9 seconds—
after “Spoonful of Sugar” song and chapter 7 on scene selection)*

Activity: Sugar Relay—(Goal): Ridiculous Fun

Instructions: Sometimes our families/groups just need a good dose of the ridiculous to remember what’s important.

Step 1: Get out your sugar, two spoons, and two equal-sized containers (i.e. cups, measuring cups, small bowls etc.)

Step 2: Go to an easy-to-clean space.

Step 3: Split up into two teams, give each team a utensil, and one of the equal-sized containers. Line up next to the other team, each behind their own container. Place the sugar across the room equidistant from each team.

Step 4: Take turns walking or running (you set this rule) to the sugar, scooping as much as you can on your utensil, and carefully bringing it back to your team’s container. Then hand off the utensil and repeat. Play until one group fills the container, or if this seems ludicrous, simply set a timer for five minutes or so and the winner is the group with the most when time runs out.

Step 5: Once done, you can see if a spoonful of sugar really does make it easier to clean up. Work together on this part as well! (Make sure you clean your feet before returning to the movie.)

Third Intermission:

(1 hour, 18 minutes, 30 seconds—the end of “Love to Laugh” song)

Share: Have everyone share the funniest thing that has ever happened to them. It is even better if it is a story the whole family/group hasn’t heard yet.

Fourth Intermission:

*(2 hours, 2 minutes, 45 seconds—
after Burt's conversation with Mr. Banks before receiving a call from the bank)*

Practice: People First

Instructions: Burt sings to Mr. Banks about how his life is, “Grind, grind, grind at the grindstone.” He observes, “You haven’t time to dry their tears,” and meanwhile, “childhood slips like sand through a sieve.” All families have their struggles at times keeping the main thing the main thing. Take out your list of family distractions, and get out markers (permanent if you have them). As a group, you will have the chance to verbalize the importance of these people around you.

Step 1: Pick one person to start. This person should write or draw, to the best of their ability, the name or face of the person sitting to their left over the top of the things listed on your distraction sheet.

Step 2: After they have written the name or finished their quick drawing, they should speak out loud the following:

_____ (the name of the person) *is more important than everything on this list.*

Step 3: Repeat this process until everyone has gone.

Step 4: Conclude as a family/group by saying out loud and together:

Our family is/families are more important than the things we do.

Post-Movie Exercise:

Activate: Quitting for Family Time

Instructions: Mr. Banks had to lose his job in order to remember the importance of flying kites with his family. Follow in his footsteps, not by losing something, but by quitting something (permanently or temporarily) and replacing it with a family/group activity.

Step 1: Pick an activity this week to cancel. (If there was something on your family distraction list which particularly stood out to you as a problem, don’t be afraid to quit it permanently! Not every good thing deserves our time, especially when it is distracting from what is most important.)

Step 2: Plan a replacement whole family/group event.

Step 3: Smile lots while you enjoy your planned activity.

Family/Group Statement:

Step 1: Say the following out loud as an entire group:

We are going to enjoy more spoons full of sugar, fly more kites, laugh more, and work together to make every day more supercalifragilisticexpialidocious than the one before.

Step 2: Thank yourself (from us) for making your family/group movie time “A Trinity Family” movie time!

Created by: Andrew Wiens and A Trinity Family

A Trinity Family is here to help you make the most of your moments and to seize the days you have to influence children.

Check us out at atrinityfamily.org

