

Trinity Family Film Guide
(For use by Families or in Small School/Church Groups)

Beauty and the Beast: Loving When it Costs Us

With the help of Beauty and the Beast, we will be exploring how to love even when it causes us to lose something. Belle, Maurice, and the Beast all give us great examples of love which is willing to suffer personal hurt for the one they love.

Duration: 3-4 hours with activities. Can be split into multiple segments as needed.

Materials Needed: Snack or meal for second intermission, paper and writing utensil, card-making supplies, and poster board or whiteboard with marker.

Recommended Movie Snack or Meal: See Second Intermission

View it with a Twist (optional): As a group, build a prison with just a narrow view of the screen. Have everyone take a turn watching the movie from within the cell.

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 {Beauty and the Beast} (Discretion Encouraged before showing to young children)

I would not recommend showing this film to young children who are not already very familiar with the storyline. The beast can be frightening, as is a few scenes with wolves attacking, and finally an angry mob. I have shown my own young children because we put on our own production of *Beauty and the Beast* and are very familiar with the storyline, which aids in comforting fears. They know all will turn out right.

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 (with whatever disclaimer you might want to make for potential scary scenes) with the theme of “Loving When it Costs Us.”

Share: Have the group share stories of times someone loved them even when they were not acting very loveable or even acting particularly beastly.

Just for Fun: Belle’s father in the film is an inventor and tinkerer. As a group, take a few minutes before starting the movie to get out some energy, laugh, and create your own human machine.

Step 1: One person should start by entering the middle of the group or room and performing a specific motion, accompanied by a noise, (i.e. lawn mower pull with growling, or spinning in circles and whooping). They should then continue to make the motion and noise on repeat.

Step 2: A second person of the group should join in with the first, adding their own motion and noise, also on repeat.

Step 3: Repeat for all group members until everyone is making their own motion and noise like a giant complex machine. Repeat as desired.

First Intermission:

(31 minutes, 40 seconds—beginning of chapter 8 - after Belle switches places with her father)

Share: Stories of Free Gifts

Instructions: Maurice received freedom for free, simply because his daughter loved him. Take some time to celebrate the free gifts you have received from those who love you.

Step 1: With a whiteboard, or large poster board, begin brainstorming as a group things that we have received without earning them. People just gave them us through love. Record them.

Step 2: After each person shares, have the whole group collectively say, “It feels good to be loved!”

Second Intermission:

(1 hour, 42 seconds—beginning chapter 13, after Belle decides to bring the Beast back home)

Activity: Painful Choices—(Goal): To explore the pain of making a choice for someone else’s good, that which will cost us personal loss.

Instructions: Before beginning the movie, prepare a different plate of snack or meal for the number of group participants you are expecting, including yourself. Each plate should contain different food and of type which would be deemed different caliber. There should be plates which one would desire far less than others if they should be given the choice.

Examples (if doing snack): 1 piece of celery, 1 apple, 1 granola bar with an apple, 1cup of salsa with nacho chips with granola bar with an apple etc. etc.

Examples (if doing meal): 1 plate of bland rice and veggies with water, 1 plate of rice and veggies with sauce and milk, 1 plate of rice and veggies with sauce plus a side of fruit and bread with chocolate milk on up to adding dessert etc. etc.

Step 1: Hand out meals around the table or circle so everyone has a plate. Set yourself one as well.

Step 2: Have someone help you by writing down the names of each participant on slips of paper. Then have everyone draw a name, telling them it is to be kept secret and must not be their own.

Step 3: Now the game begins. The objective to win is to bless the person whose name you have drawn. You do this by swapping plates with others. You, as the director, must pick a pre-ordained number of swapping rounds (recommend 15-30) which no one else will be told. Pick a volunteer to go first and begin swapping. After the first person has switched plates with another, travel clockwise around the group to determine who goes next. Stop the game suddenly once your pre-ordained number of turns have been taken.

Step 4: Enjoy the snack or meal which is now left sitting in front of everyone. Reveal the names of those people you were each trying to bless and discuss how it felt to give away good food at your own expense, or how it felt to receive good food when you were trying to bless others?

Third Intermission:

(1 hour, 34 minutes, –beginning chapter 19, after the Beast lets Belle go)

Share: The beast allows himself to love Belle, which opens him up to paying the price of missing her when she is gone. Have everyone tell a story of a time they missed a loved one.

Project: “Missing You” Card

Give every group member a piece of paper and writing utensil. Have them pick someone they haven’t seen for a while, and create a card to send them telling them at least one thing they love about them.

(Provide Envelopes and stamps, if applicable.)

Post-Movie Exercise:

Activate: Love with a Cost

Instructions: Each group member is going to make a plan for blessing someone they love. It is going to be a plan that costs them something: money, time and labor, or a toy/favorite item they might give away.

Step 1: Have each group member think about those people they love and have them pick one they feel drawn to bless.

Step 2: Now have them think about what they could give this person to communicate their love. Challenge them to be extravagant in their giving and to give more than is comfortable. For some of us time is easy to give, others have no problem spending lots of money, others could give away an old toy without feeling the loss. These shouldn’t be the things we give.

This is an opportunity to love someone in a way which actually costs us something, some way challenging to us.

Step 3: Have everyone share their idea with the group. Then create a deadline as a group to accomplish this plan and a check-in plan to share the stories.

Family/Group Statement:

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

I want to love the beauty in everyone, even when it costs me something.

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**

