

“PC3 At the Movies” & Overall Media Philosophy

Summer 2018

PURPOSE: The purpose of the *PC3 At the Movies* is to show people how to use the Bible to find God’s truth in popular media, so that they can apply that truth in their daily lives. It is a great way of *Challenging People to Discover REAL Life in Christ!*

WHAT WE BELIEVE: At Palm Coast Community Church, we believe the Bible consists of total truth without any mixture of error. It is God’s revelation to us and, therefore, is the guidebook for our lives.

We also believe that God reveals Himself and His principles through nature and in every culture in the world—even Hollywood—whether people recognize it or not! In order to impact the culture, we strive to draw attention to God’s truth in popular cultural elements—movies being one of the top arenas.

OUR METHOD OF DELIVERY: In order to carry out what we believe, we are constantly trying to deliver the truth of the Bible in ways that are highly relevant to our culture—especially the unchurched people with whom God desperately wants a relationship. It is our commitment to do this without ever compromising any biblical truth, while at the same time being as relevant and sensitive to the unchurched culture as possible. Where did this idea come from? Well, honestly...Jesus! This is EXACTLY what He did by coming to this earth and living and teaching the way He did.

We believe one of the best ways to communicate the message of Christ in a relevant way is by using large amounts of multimedia, and that means using popular movies, movie clips, and other video elements. We work hard to use videos to drive home biblical truth. Sometimes this is an efficient way to deliver intellectual truth, but most often the media clips are used to evoke an emotion that brings people in touch with their feelings on an issue. With this in mind, the clips can be used in several primary ways:

- 1) To help the audience connect with the speaker—We want you to be entertained. This helps the audience relax and lower their barriers, so their spirits can be touched by biblical truth. (Example: a humorous clip that simply makes people laugh.)
- 2) To help the audience engage a “worldly” feeling—This helps people to identify that they really do have a problem. Then they will be more likely to “ask” in their hearts for an answer from God. We then teach them the truth found in the Bible. (Example: a clip that makes people feel hate toward the “bad guy.”)
- 3) To help the audience engage a “spiritual” feeling—This helps people identify with what true righteousness and godliness feels like—it feels good to think and do the right thing. We then teach them how the Bible says we can have that change permanently. (Example: a clip that makes people feel the emotions of the “top dog” sacrificing so the “underdog” can win.)

- 4) To directly illustrate a biblical truth—This is the straightforward method of “here is an example of the principle we have just seen in the Bible.” (Example: a clip illustrating someone dealing with peer pressure but not giving in.)

OUR OVERALL GOALS:

- 1) To use movies to communicate to unchurched people how to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- 2) To use movies to teach followers of Christ (Christians) how to grow in *Loving God, Loving People and Living It Out!*
- 3) To help Christians learn how to use popular cultural elements to help communicate the message of Christ to unchurched people.
- 4) To show both Christians and non-Christians how to develop their own personal and spiritual walk with God.

We strive to keep in mind that people who become Christ-followers do not immediately know the difference between truth and error. So, we are constantly working to teach and to model that the only way to develop discernment in this area is to develop their spirituality. This happens through a **process** that involves (1) truth from the Bible; (2) Involvement with other Christians who help each other understand biblical truth and understand how to apply it to their daily lives; and (3) People then CHOOSING to respond in obedience to God by actually applying the truth when it is understood.

Five tools for doing this are...

- A) The Bible (PC3 uses the New Living Translation: NLTse);
- B) Life Groups at PC3;
- C) www.PluggedIn.com
- D) www.CommonSenseMedia.org

*Our goal in this arena is NOT fundamentally to **tell people** what is right and what is wrong. Our goal is to challenge them to discover real life in Christ. Real life that involves developing our dependence on Christ and our interdependence with other Christians so that together we are clearly **led by the Holy Spirit to discern good from evil and empowered by the Spirit to apply any necessary changes to our daily lives.***