

What Makes a Good Friend

MOVIE:
Ratatouille



Lesson Objective:

Being a good friend involves character traits of being loyal, trustworthy, protective, honest, caring and ***forgiving***. When looking for a good friend, make sure you are becoming a good friend by developing these character traits.

Intro to the Movie:

Ratatouille is the story of a rat who loves to cook but is not allowed to, and a boy whose job it is to cook but has no idea how. Their individual situations bring about a mutual friendship, and they begin cooking together secretly. The rat, Remy, hides beneath Linguini's hat as he works in the kitchen, and together they make some truly delicious meals.

Their friendship is tested though when other pressures in life distract each of them. Remy's rat family catches up with him and wants 'in' on the delicious foods stored in the kitchen's cupboards, while Linguini worries about a very harsh critic who is coming to eat at their restaurant (as well as worrying about a certain girl who works with him.)

The two friends make some mistakes and end up hurting and betraying one another. There is a reason for what Remy did and a reason for what Linguini did, but that did not keep them from eventually getting past their problems and forgiving each other. They decide that being friends is what matters more than holding on to their own selfish opinions, and after that their relationship and their lives overall blossom and grow.

(The 3D lenses) Look for themes such as trust and broken trust, selfishness and selflessness, anger and forgiveness, vulnerability and protectiveness. Look for the

obstacles they overcome to become and stay friends, and how their lives are enriched for it.

Discussion Group Questions:

1. If **you** were cast in this movie from the perspective of being a friend, which of the main characters (the rat or the boy) would you rather be and why?
2. What characteristics of a good friend did you see in Remy and Linguini?
3. Who do you think changed the most throughout the movie by growing into a better friend?
4. What part did forgiveness play in developing their friendship? How about you? What part has forgiveness played in your developing friendships?
5. Consider these wise sayings and discuss what you think about them:
 - “An honest answer is a sign of true *friendship*.” (Proverbs 24:26).
 - “If you want people to like you, *forgive* them when they wrong you. Remembering wrongs can break up a *friendship*.” (Proverbs 17:9)

Group Input:

Leader-solicited responses from the large group on reactions to some of the questions

Gathering of ideas and themes recognized in the discussion groups with a focus on guiding the audience toward the main objective: *Being a good friend involves character traits of being loyal, trustworthy, protective, and honest, caring and **forgiving**. When looking for a good friend, make sure you are becoming a good friend by developing these character traits.*

Bullet Objective:

Put this summary section in your own words, but here are some ideas you can use:

You’ll notice that although there were failures and character flaws in Remy and Linguini on both sides of their friendship, eventually they kept communicating and came to a point where **forgiveness** brought about a whole new level of friendship

based on a deeper understanding and honesty and trust. As they became characters who developed these traits in themselves, then each actually became a good friend and found a good friend!

(from John 15:12-13)

¹²My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. ¹³The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them¹³The greatest love you can have for your *friends* is to give your life for them.

While Jesus is certainly foreshadowing his own death on the cross, there are many 'deaths' we can die on the way to becoming a good friend. Love is primary, and that means more than an emotional feeling; it means the kind of selfless actions it takes to become a person of **honesty** (refusing to lie), **loyalty** (refusing to gossip about or hurt others), **forgiveness** (refusing your right to get revenge), **caring** and **protection** (refusing to put yourself first). Each of these personal refusals is an act of dying to yourself, and this is what Jesus is talking about when he discussed loving one another. A good friend is a person willing to choose to love. As you develop these traits, you will become a very good friend, and look for these developing traits in others if you want to have good friends!

Challenge:

1. Sometime this week, have a conversation with your friend and ask them how selfless you are in your relationship. Careful, this will require vulnerability for both of you to share, but remember, the goal is a deeper friendship.
2. Ask your friend if there is anything you need to ask forgiveness for and offer them forgiveness for any wrong they've done to you. Thank them for this selfless act.

Pray for God's purpose and power to put it into action and transform lives. Remind them of the online personal journey for further involvement with this topic of Good Friends.