SHORT FILM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS EPISODES 1-10

# **EPISODE 1**LOOKING FOR A STORY

1	In this short film, Dan Allender asks, "If your life was a story, would it be worth reading?" How would you respond to that question?
2	If you're going to make sense of your life, it's going to happen through story.  Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
3	You may not be drawn to motorcycles and that's fine. But what adventure do you pursueand what is it about that adventure that makes you feel alive?
4	Where do you feel completely over your head in life? How do you sense that chapter in your story will play out?
5	Norman Maclean, author of <i>A River Runs Through It</i> , says, "Sometimes the best way to make sense of your life is to find a story that tells you about your story." What movie or book would you say mirrors your story?
6	At the close of this film John Eldredge asks, "When others tell the story of your life, what kind of story do you want it to be?" How do you think those close to you would describe your current story? Is that what you want it to be?

# **EPISODE 2**LOST IN SMALL STORIES

1	We need a purpose for living or we begin to feel lost. As Dan Allender says in the film, "We have to have a sense there's something bigger than our lives." What would that "something" be for you?
2	Consider what seemed so important to your identity and validation in high school. Does that feel like a smaller story now? Is your answer mostly based on how long ago that season occurredor does it hint at something deeper?
3	At the close of this film, John Eldredge remarks, "You know you're living in a small story if you're the main character." If you're being honest, do you see yourself as the hero of your story? How does it feel to consider that is too small a story to sustain your hopes and dreams?

# **EPISODE 3**BEAUTY AND AFFLICTION

1	Do you tend to notice beauty in your world? If so, describe where you find it and what it provokes in you. If not, how might you become more aware of it?
2	John Eldredge says it is the pain and fear in our lives that cause us to stay in the safe stories. What small story do you feel stuck in?
3	At the end of this film, the comment is made that the real question isn't why there is so much suffering in the world but why there is so much beauty. How would you respond?

# **EPISODE 4**LARGER STORY

1	Most people experience life as a movie they've arrived to 30 minutes late. Do you sometimes feel that way about your own life? Give an example of where this has happened recently.
2	Which of your favorite movies best describes the theme of your story? How has that theme played out in your life?
3	Many people live as if they are the heroes of their own story. If we, instead, believe God is the hero and we are smaller characters within the larger story, does that seem to enhance or diminish our role?
4	Dan Allender states that we're all looking for redemption. Where does your life need restoration – and how would that change the trajectory of your story going forward?

# **EPISODE 5**THE HEART OF THE STORY

1	Sometimes it's easier to name the adventures or accomplishments of our lives than the impact of love. How has the pursuit of love affected your story?
2	When do you feel most loved and how do you respond when this doesn't happen? Could God be trying to show you something through this – like how your expectation for love might actually reveal more about your heart than any shortcomings from the other person?
3	According to Dan Allender, we are meant for honor and to be delighted in. Do you regularly experience honor and delight from those closest to you? How do you regularly show honor and delight to those same people?

#### **EPISODE 6**

# FEAR

1	In the film, it was said that fear is a great paralyzer and often connected to failure. How has this been true in your life?
2	Blaine notes that the solution to fear is not perfection, but mercy. Share why you've found this to be true (or not) in your own journey.
3	Fear can reveal our need for someone greater than us to be there for us. Have you ever reached the end of yourself in order to be rescued in this way?

# **EPISODE 7**DARK STORIES

1	C.S. Lewis says, "An evil power made himself prince of this world." Do you sense that we live in a world that is spiritually at war? How does that change your view of the necessity of prayer – as well as what to pray for and against?
2	The presence of evil feels personal and intentionalbecause it is. Give an example of how the enemy uniquely tries to take you out.
3	James 4:7 tells us when we submit ourselves to God and resist the devil, the enemy must flee. Do you regularly wield your authority in God against the enemy's plans or more often simply wonder why life is so hard and joy so opposed?

# **EPISODE 8**RISK VS. COURAGE

1	According to Dan Allender, "Shame is where we feel exposed." When do you most encounter shameand what might that reveal about you?
2	Where do you feel most capable in your world? Do you spend more time there than needed rather than stepping into situations that test or stretch you? Is that something you'd like to change? Why or why not?
3	Most people find something they're good at and then hide there. It takes courage to come out of that hiding. Are you willing to risk exposure for greater breakthrough in an area you feel incompetent or unproven?

# **EPISODE 9** FINDING YOUR MISSION

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1	John Eldredge says, "The whole point of understanding your story is so you can be intentional with where it is headed." Take a few minutes and tell the group the major theme of your life story. This isn't the time to go into massive details from the time you were born until the present – but rather, approach it like you would if you were describing the theme of a movie ( overcoming, adventure, etc.).
2	Knowing and naming the theme of your life to this point does not mean it will remain the theme from here on. God makes all things new. What do you sense God has for the next chapter of your life?

**3** While all of our stories are opposed, the attacks are unique and tend to be aimed at our specific passions and talents. How has this been true in your life?

# **EPISODE 10** CELEBRATION

1	Do you live with a sense of anticipation? If so, what you are most looking forward to? If you don't live with anticipation, can you put into words why that is?
2	John says, "A story is only as good as its ending." How would you like your story in this world to end?
3	As we conclude this series of short films, share the one thing that most stands out to you about having a story worth living?