

**FAMILY FILM DEVOTIONAL GUIDE  
TO THE FILM**

**WINE OF  
MORNING**

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*Wine of Morning* follows the life of Jesus Christ through the eyes of Joel, a promising young Jewish man who turns outlaw to free his people from Roman tyranny. The events Joel witnesses give a refreshing perspective on the Gospel stories and help the viewer gain new appreciation for the works of the Messiah.

# 1 The Messiah

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The following are some of the biblical events portrayed or mentioned in *Wine of Morning*. Look up the verses of Scripture for each and remind yourself of these moments in the life of Christ. The Jewish people during this time had different expectations of the Messiah's work. How do Joel's expectations of Messiah differ from Christ's true objectives?

*Jonathan Is Healed (Healing the Paralytic) - Mk. 2:1-12*

*Jesus Befriends Levi (Matthew), The Tax Collector - Matt. 9:9-13*

*Jesus Stands Before Pilate - Matt. 27:11-26; Jn. 18:28-19:16*

*Jesus Is Crucified - Matt. 27:32-56; Lk. 23:26-49*

Reflection: How has *Wine of Morning* helped you appreciate these events? What quality of Christ stands out in your mind as you read each of these passages? Discuss practical ways to incorporate these Christlike qualities into your daily living.

## ***BREAK IT UP***

We recommend looking over the guide and watching the film as a family the first night. Then take one section of this guide for each consecutive night for your family devotions. This will be more enriching than discussing the entire guide on one evening. Remember to plan another family movie night sometime during the year to refresh your memory of what you've learned!

The following are other events portrayed or referred to in the film. You may choose to do further personal study on these events:

*The Wedding at Cana*

*Casting Out the Demon in Capernaum*

*Feeding the 5,000*

*Lazarus Raised from the Dead*

*The Ascension of Jesus*

## 2 Influence

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Joel is influenced by several key men and women throughout his career. Discuss the role each of the following plays in Joel's decisions:

*Omah*

*Prince Manaen*

*Irene*

*Paul*

Reflection: We all make choices based on the influence of other people, although we are often not fully aware of it. Whom do you allow to influence your personal convictions? Are you a good influence on others? Ask the Lord to grant you the strength to remove bad influences from your life and to help you be a better influence on others. Consider the following verses: Prov. 13:20, I Thes. 5:11, II Tim. 4:2

The Holy Spirit is the primary influence when it comes to salvation and spiritual matters. Consider the following verses: Jn. 6:63; Rom. 8:2,5; Gal. 5:16-18,22.

# 3 Passion

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Joel is passionate about bringing justice and freedom to the people of Israel. His intense emotional involvement blinds him to sound judgment and to the truth of Jesus being the Messiah.

*What was Joel's behavior during his conversation with Joseph prior to leaving for Capernaum?*

*How did Joel behave when paying the Tax Collector?*

*How did Joel respond when he saw the Jewish slaves being transported and beaten?*

*How did Joel react after Levi's call to follow Jesus?*

*How did Joel's service to Prince Manaen and the rebel underground change him?*

*What were Joel's negative views of Christ during his conversation with Irene in Cyprus?*

Reflection: How does Joel's emotional and impulsive behavior affect him and others? How is lack of faith in God reflected in his statements? Consider moments in your life when you reacted impulsively or out of intense emotion. What happened as a result? How can you grow and change to become more self-controlled in your decision-making? Consider the following verses: Prov. 12:16; 14:29; 16:32; 19:2; 25:28; 29:22; 1 Cor. 9:24,25; Gal. 5:22-24.

# 4 New Hope

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Jonathan and Irene both try to encourage Joel with these passages which magnify God's goodness and His promises to His people. Discuss their importance and significance to your life.

*2 Chronicles 7:14 - If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

*Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

Paul refers to the following verse during his stay in Antioch. Discuss the meaning of this verse. How does this verse apply to you and to others today?

*John 14:6 - I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

# 5 Forgiveness

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Consider the scene in *Wine of Morning* when Pilate sentences Jesus to death. Read Matt. 27:20-26 where Barabbas is released and Jesus is condemned to death. Discuss the significance of that substitution for Barabbas, for all sinners, and for you.

Reflection: Why was Christ's death necessary for our forgiveness? What Scripture verses come to mind when you think of forgiveness? Have your sins been forgiven? If you have not asked Christ to forgive you, you can do it now. Tell Him you believe that He paid the penalty for all your sin when He died on the cross. Ask Him to cleanse your soul from sin and to save you.

## Suggested Resources Available From BJU Press® & JourneyForth®

*Wine of Morning* (the book)

*A Sparrow Alone*

For more information about these titles as well as other helpful resources, please visit us online at [www.bjupress.com](http://www.bjupress.com) or call us at **1.800.845.5731**.