

# *Older Children*

## *Lord of the Flies*

### *Parent/Teen Movie Night*

#### **Best Use**

As a movie night and discussion for parents with their teens

#### **Nutritional Value**

Triggers meaningful dialogue on fallen human nature

#### **Advance Preparation**

- Rent or purchase the movie *Lord of the Flies*
- Like most films, this movie includes offensive language and some intense scenes of cruelty. (You might consider buying a service like *clearplay.com* that edits out language and offensive scenes.)
- Pop some popcorn and have the discussion guide on the reverse side ready.

#### **Serve It Up**

Be up front with your teen, explaining that you want to watch the film to discuss its themes from a Christian perspective. Don't use this as an occasion to teach, but to enjoy some good dialogue. You probably won't agree on everything, which is fine. Just discussing the themes can strengthen your relationship and stretch critical thinking skills.

## **Film Synopsis**

In this disturbing yet profound story a group of well-educated, well-behaved boys from an elite school find themselves stranded on a deserted island after a plane crash. With no adults to take charge, the boys must establish a system of order so that they can work together toward survival. As the story unfolds, these well-ordered children become ill disciplined, self-subverting animals. Ralph, a kind and natural leader, is rejected and attacked. The chubby outsider (Piggy) fears for and eventually loses his life. This group of well-behaved children turns into a pack of savages. They subvert order, embrace cruelty and kill the weak. If not for the timely intervention of a rescue team, they would have continued toward eventual self-destruction. The message at its core is one of evil in our world – and more troubling – in our hearts.

## **Discuss**

Alternate asking one another the following questions. Once you have shared your own thoughts, reference the *Think About It* notes below.

- 1. Were the boys good or bad at the beginning of the story?** (See A)
- 2. Why did some boys become cruel/evil later in the story?** (See B)
- 3. Did the evil come from outside or inside these boys?** (See C)
- 4. In what ways does this story illustrate James 1:14-15?**

## **Think About It**

**A** – They were both, but basically good.

**B** – Because there were no adults to keep them from doing bad.

**C** – From within their hearts.

**D** – We are fallen human beings with a bent toward sin and destruction – which is why we are called to follow Jesus rather than heed our own desires.

*For more ideas:* **MovieNightChat.com**