INTRODUCTION

We hope you and your family will enjoy watching A Walk In My Shoes together. We also hope that the movie will inspire some great family-building conversations between you and your kids. This guide is designed to help you lead such discussions.

As you’ll see on the following pages, we’ve identified seven different themes that you can discuss as a family. Our suggestion is that you pick the one that’s most relevant or most interesting to your family and focus on that particular topic. If that conversation goes well and you want to talk about another topic, you can select a second theme from the list. By focusing on one topic at a time, you and your children will be better able to process, retain, and apply what you’ve discussed.

Good conversations with your kids can happen at any time: in the car, at dinner, at bedtime – or right after watching this Family Movie Night movie. So be prepared. You can talk over these subjects as they are presented in the movie or pick a time in the future to talk about it.

The format is simple: We state the theme, remind you where in the movie it was demonstrated, and then provide questions you can use to stimulate conversation. If you’re having the conversation after the movie, you may want to revisit the part of the film in which the theme is presented.
1 | **Take time to listen to others**

Trish Fahey was constantly running from one activity to another, complaining that she needed 30 hours in a day and never taking the time to really listen to others. As a result, she didn’t know what her own family members were thinking and feeling.

- Why is it important that we listen carefully to family and friends?
- How could Trish have done a better job of listening?
- How well do we listen to each other in our family? How could we do it better?

2 | **Walk a mile in the other person’s shoes**

Without knowing Cindy Kremmer or what she has been going through, Mrs. Fahey had formed negative opinions about her. Only when she was forced to “walk a mile in Cindy’s shoes” did she begin to understand their situation.

- What did Trish learn by living in Cindy’s place for a few days?
- How did that experience help Trish to become a better person?
- A better teacher?
- If there’s someone you haven’t thought too highly of, how might you benefit from “walking a mile” in his or her shoes?

3 | **Be kind to others**

Officer Fahey left Cindy a very generous tip when he paid for his coffee. Toby Fahey gave his new jacket and backpack to his friend Mikey. When the Kremmers were evicted from their house, their neighbor Jake gave them a place to stay.

- What did each of these acts of kindness mean to the people who received them?
- What acts of kindness could we do for each other in our family?
- Who is someone at your school or in our neighborhood to whom we could show kindness? What could we do for that person?

4 | **Pursue your dreams**

Dana Fahey struggled to learn calculus to please her mother. But what she really wanted to pursue was dance, as she showed Justin in the park.

- How might Dana have told her parents about her love for dance and tried to gain their support?
- What dreams for the future do you have in the areas you love?
- How can our family help you pursue your dreams?
5 | Be careful what you say

- How did Justin’s careless words make him feel?
- Have you ever said something hurtful to someone that you didn’t really mean? If so, what could you do to make things right with that person?
- Has anything unfair and hurtful ever been said to you? If so, how could things be made better between you and the other person?

Even though he didn’t really mean it, Justin told his father in anger, “I hate you!” And those turned out to be the last words he said to his dad.

6 | Help others, help yourself

By helping Cindy Kremmer and her boys, Jake helped himself in dealing with the pain of his girlfriend’s death. Also by helping Cindy’s boys, Trish learned valuable lessons about being a better wife, mother, and teacher.

- How did helping the Kremmers help Jake handle his own pain?
- What’s a problem or an issue that you could use help with?
- How might helping someone else help you with your own needs? What might you learn from such an experience?

7 | Take comfort in times of sorrow

As Mikey and Jake were looking up at the Christmas lights they’d put on the house, Mikey asked Jake, “Where was God when my dad died?” Jake replied, “Right beside him.”

- Why was this question so important to Mikey?
- Why do we tend to look for God in times of sorrow?
- How does Jake’s answer to Mikey make you feel? What picture does it give you of God?
Look for these other great Family Movie Night movies.

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