



**FORTY-SEVEN  
DAYS WITH  
Jesus**

**ACTIVITY GUIDE**



# Movie Overview

**FORTY-SEVEN DAYS WITH JESUS** has storylines with which most of us can relate, including a family struggling with relationships and the heartbeat of Jesus' final days on Earth.

Like most grandparents, Nonna and Poppa want to enjoy family time with their extended family. In the movie, they host their grandchildren and their adult children and spouses for a few days at Restoration Oaks Ranch. It becomes evident that their son Joseph is devoting too much time to work—at the expense of his wife Juliana and children.

Earlier in their marriage, Nonna and Poppa had similar struggles in this area. As Poppa did some soul searching, he decided to learn more about Jesus' ways by handwriting Scripture verses in a composition book, detailing Christ's final 47 days on Earth. His desire was to change and revitalize his marriage.

As the family's time together unfolds, Poppa begins to read to the children, who grow increasingly intrigued by the story and character of Jesus. Each time they ask, "So what happened next?" another adult continues where the story left off.

Through the film's dramatization of the Bible's account, we encounter the values of love, sacrifice, and forgiveness. We see examples of both unity and discord. And we experience the power of the Cross.

Our prayer is that as you watch the story of **FORTY-SEVEN DAYS WITH JESUS** unfold, your own family bonds will be strengthened and hope for your future will seem brighter. Thank you for helping us to change lives by sharing the Gospel through film and music; there's never been a better time to do so than now. We appreciate and encourage your feedback.

## How to Use This Guide

This Activity Guide was created in partnership with **All Pro Pastors International** and whether you are going through this individually or in group discussions, we suggest you begin with prayer: ask God to facilitate your learning.

Be sure to have a Bible or a Bible app (or prepare handouts in advance that include the various Scripture verses). We hope the movie provokes thoughts and helps you notice things that may not have been evident to you through the reading of words.

For example, in the scene at Christ's crucifixion, we notice rain. This may prompt a search for the weather and sky conditions described in Scripture. Our hope is group members will learn something they hadn't considered in prior interactions with these passages.



What follows are questions for group discussion ... you can decide if you want to do one session or several. The facilitator should select the questions he or she feels will produce the most interaction among group members. It is not necessary to pose every question. (Times are noted in case your group chooses to show video clips along with the discussion. Also, see the Names of God activity following the questions.

Since the film includes singing, we also suggest you create a playlist of songs that could be connections to the movie's storylines. Have fun as you or your group tackles these questions and discussion.

## **View the trailer for FORTY-SEVEN DAYS WITH JESUS**



**Learn more at [FortySevenDaysFilm.com](http://FortySevenDaysFilm.com)**

**This guide contains film spoilers and was created to be used as a resource after viewing the film to discuss your thoughts on the movie with a group.**



## Discussion Questions

- 1.** In the opening scene, Joseph is on the phone with his business partner while driving with his wife Juliana to his parents' home. He wants to keep their current work project "family-friendly." What thoughts does that phrase bring to your mind?
- 2.** Discuss your reaction to Joseph's deception at the payphone when he calls back his business partner. Have you ever done something similar?
- 3.** What was your reaction to the name of Nonna and Poppa's place: Restoration Oaks Ranch?
- 4.** How should Joseph have reacted when his business partner scheduled a meeting on the Saturday of Easter weekend? What does your family do (or not do) to honor holy days like Easter?
- 5.** Have you ever experienced "the last Easter" (or other holiday celebration) you would spend with someone you love? Describe the circumstance and how you interacted with your loved one.
- 6.** When Nonna questions Joseph about his marriage, she says, "Loving is easy, but the living together is the hard part." Do you agree or disagree? What thoughts from your own experiences popped into your mind?
- 7.** Joseph and Juliana are in marriage counseling, with a major focus on how his work hurts their family. Do you see career stress as a big issue in marriage and family life? Why or why not?
- 8.** Daniel seems to love video games. Similarly, Daniel's father is always on the phone for work. What safeguards do you think parents should create around online activity for their children? And what boundaries should adults place around their own digital device time?
- 9.** When Joseph takes up the story from Poppa, the film transitions to Palm Sunday in Jerusalem: "Have you heard the good news?" How old were you when you first heard the Good News? Share a little about that experience.
- 10.** Have you ever thought of Jesus as being the "Passover Lamb" who gave His life for you? How does His sacrifice impact you?
- 11.** When Juliana beckons Joseph to join the family's game time, how does he react? Have you ever felt caught between your work or other responsibilities and having special times with your spouse and children? How did that feel? What was the result?





**12.** Express your thoughts about Judas, his remorse, and his decision to hang himself. Do you believe Jesus forgave him?

(Note: this question can lead to several others about God's foreknowledge, His plan and purpose for our lives, etc.)

**13.** When the women came to prepare Jesus' body for burial, they recalled how He treated people with kindness and healed them. How have you experienced Jesus' kindness or healing?

**14.** Poppa confronts Joseph about "making the same mistakes I made." He also states Daniel is not interested in the Bible story because "his father (Joseph) is not living out the truth." Can you relate? Poppa advises, "Your drive to provide for your family can't come at their expense." Is this dilemma a common issue for you and your family? If so, what are some actions you can take to help with this situation?

**15.** Joseph's brother-in-law begins a fireside chat about work and the importance of their wives' involvement. He advises Joseph to "Trust the journey." Why is this important?

**16.** "If you ever feel stuck or lost, remember God is still at work in our lives." Poppa shares this with Juliana, Daniel, and Emma while they are stargazing. Then he explains how he used God's Word to write Forty-Seven Days with Jesus during a time when he and Nonna weren't doing well in their marriage. He wanted to be a better man. Is it possible to get unstuck or unlost? How does God help us with that?

**17.** Joseph stays behind to handle his business call when the family heads to the lake. Then he finds Juliana's wedding ring. Kind of ironic that his business partner then suggests they focus on their "family friendly approach" in an effort to sell Joseph's ideas. How did Joseph respond? Would you be willing to take a stand like that? How does the enemy of our soul lead us to rationalize our shortcomings?

**18.** While fishing with Poppa, the children are saddened when they notice their parents arguing on the shore. Poppa tries to assure them things are headed in the right direction, despite their doubts. What scene in the life of Christ does the film use to exemplify patience, trust, and hope?



**19.** During the lakeside marshmallow roast, Joseph explains the significance of unleavened bread as related to forgiveness and sacrifice. The disciple Peter apologized for denying Christ and was forgiven. How does this truth impact your ability to forgive?





**20.** Poppa says, "Sometimes we see faith and logic as opposing forces, but faith is actually the key to a way in viewing the world that logic simply cannot. Without their mutuality, we would be blind to the beauty and complexity of the universe." Would you agree with this insight? Why or why not?

**21.** During the family's Easter Egg hunt, Joseph apologizes to Poppa for his attitude in their earlier conversation. Poppa accepts and says, "You cannot rush the future; only greet it when it arrives." Would you agree or disagree with this perspective? Why?

**22.** As Joseph readies to head home, his father affirms him: "I don't know how you figured it out so fast, but I'm really proud of you." How important is parental affirmation and at what age do we no longer need to hear it?

**23.** On the way home, Joseph apologizes to his children and shares that he intends to show his love for them is a priority. Joseph also explains how the disciples continued to spread the good news after Jesus' ascension. Then he tells his kids that he truly believes and plans to be a better father from this time forward. Predict what you see this family's future holds.

# Names of God Activity for FORTY-SEVEN DAYS WITH JESUS

**Instructions:** From the following 10 names of God (among more than 100 in Scripture), read the verse(s) and select scenes from the film demonstrate God as this specific name.

## **Advocate** (1 John 2:1-2)

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

## **The Author of Life** (Acts 3:15)

"You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this."

## **Beloved Son** (Colossians 1:13-14)

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

## **Bread of God/Bread of Life** (John 6:26-33)

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. 27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."



## **A Consuming Fire** (Deuteronomy 4:24, 24:17 KJV)

"For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God."

"And he took the book of the covenant and read in the audience of the people: and they said, 'All the Lord hath said will we do and be obedient.'"

## **Eternal Father** (John 6:27)

"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will



**God of Patience and Consolation** (Romans 15:5 KJV)

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus.”

**God of the Whole Earth and The Husband** (Isaiah 54:5)

“For your Maker is your husband—  
the Lord Almighty is his name—  
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer;  
he is called the God of all the earth.”

**My Trust from My Youth** (Psalm 71:5)

“For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth.”



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Names of God Activity provided by Claire Hupy.





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