



# A Knight's Tale: What Really Matters

## Reminders:

- If you are going to use a movie clip, ALWAYS PREVIEW IT! No exceptions! You are responsible for what you show your group! Our writers will always try to provide “clean clips” and warn you of nearby questionable words or content, but all art forms are subjective. Only you can determine what to show your group. Number one rule: watch it first.
- Please read the Terms of Use at the end of this lesson for important licensing and copyright information.



## Goal:

To discern which issues in life are eternally important.

## Setting the Stage:

Invite everyone in your group to share a recent argument they have had with someone in their family. Talk about the fact that everybody has arguments with family members.

Some families are very private with their scuffles; other folks are very public. Encourage your students to ask themselves this question any time they feel a fight coming on with their parents, siblings, or friends: *Is it worth it? Is what I'm arguing about really worth the fight? Is the trouble I'm going to be in really worth my time?* Tell your students that, in order to add a little more scope, they can ask themselves this: *In light of eternity, does this really matter?* Ask the students who are willing to revisit the argument they shared with the group and work through the questions you've posed. Focus especially on the final question as students evaluate whether or not these arguments have eternal importance.

## A Knight's Tale Overview:

*A Knight's Tale* follows the journey of William Thatcher from peasant squire to rock-star knight in this fictional 14<sup>th</sup>-century saga. With help from his friends, William repeatedly battles an archenemy knight in the jousting arena. He also manages to fall in love while discovering what the most important things in life are.



**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *A Knight's Tale* is rated “PG-13” for “action violence, some nudity, and brief sex-related dialogue.” Leaders should preview clips prior to showing them to the group. Also, it would be helpful if the leader has seen the entire movie.

## Scripture:

### Luke 9:23–25

There is a very high demand being made by Jesus in these verses: He wants *all* of who you are! The word “lose” used in this passage has a root meaning in the idea of separating two things from one whole, or a ruining of whatever was original. Jesus is challenging the common standards of success as a process that can often “ruin” a person for eternity. He is inviting us to instead be ruined by His love in a way that changes the way we live and alters the standard of success to a process that is “giving” instead of “getting.” Jesus’ desire is that we use this criterion to decide what is truly important in life. As Christ followers, we need to understand that not just part of us is involved in our decision-making and life choices; our very being (mind, body, emotions, and spirit) is at stake. We are called to make choices that matter, and then base the rest of our daily lives on the scope of eternity instead of our personal definition of success or failure.

## Movie Clip:

“Sir Ector Rides Again”

**DVD Time:** Start the clip at the beginning of chapter two (time: 6:18) as a joust begins. End the clip near the end of chapter two (time: 11:15) as William’s friends push him to the ground. (*Please note:* Dead bodies are seen hanging in the background of this scene beginning at 10:15. Also, be aware that swearing occurs a few seconds after the stop



point of this clip. Please show this clip at your discretion as this material may be inappropriate for young or sensitive viewers.)

### *Introduction to Clip*

William takes Sir Ector's place in the jousting tournament in an attempt to change his destiny from lowly squire to famed knight. During the match, he is struck so hard that his helmet is bent onto his head. After the match, he argues with his friends about their future together.

### *Key Comments and Principles from Clip*

"The final blow of the lance has bent it onto my head."

"A man can change his stars."

"I won't spend the rest of my life as nothing."

## What Did You See?

After viewing the clip, ask the group these questions:

- What spiritual elements did you see?
- Which words, phrases, or images were the most powerful to you? Why?
- How painful do you think getting hit in the face with a lance would be?
- Would the golden feather as a reward be worth the bent helmet to you? Why or why not?
- What was the difference between what William wanted out of the reward and what his friends wanted?
- Do you think what William wanted and the effort he was willing to put forth was worth the prize he envisioned? Why or why not?



## What Did You Read?

After reading the scripture for today, ask the following questions:

- What are the key elements in this scripture?
- What is Jesus trying to tell us about how we make decisions in this passage?
- Why is it so important to give up the rights to yourself to follow Jesus?
- Can you explain the danger that Jesus warns about here?
- Give an example of how someone today could gain the world and lose his or her soul.
- Which do you think is more important to Jesus: success or failure? Explain your answer.
- Describe what it might look like in your everyday life to “take up your cross.”
- What does Jesus seem to be hinting at as worth risking your whole life for?

## What Does It All Mean?

Tie the movie clip and scripture together by asking the following questions:

- Can you remember the last time you got in an argument? What was the point?
- How about the last time you got in trouble and suffered some consequences because of your actions? Was it worth it?
- How do you typically decide if you are willing to fight for something?
- What does it look like when a person is losing his or her soul?
- List five things in your life that are really worth dying for.
- How many of the things you listed truly matter when you compare them to the length and importance of eternity?



- Describe to us how you might begin to lose your life to Jesus a little more.
- The next time you have an argument, what will be most important to you: winning the argument, maintaining the relationship, or discerning if the argument is worth it or not? How will you decide if it really was worth it?

### Creative Activity:

When was the last time you played The Game of Life? Dig the game out of the closet, see if someone in the group owns it, buy an old game from a thrift store, buy a new version, or download it here:

[http://www.download-free-games.com/board\\_game\\_download/game\\_of\\_life.htm](http://www.download-free-games.com/board_game_download/game_of_life.htm)

Play the game with your group...with a twist: every time students spin the wheel (after they chose a career), allow them to add up to ten spaces to their move. This will help speeds things along. Every time students make a decision, ask them these questions:

- Is it worth it?
- Are you losing your soul and gaining the world?
- Are you denying yourself?
- Does it matter in the light of eternity?

When anyone notices something during the game that reminds them of today's movie clip or scripture passage, invite them to share their thoughts with everyone. Have fun and see what discussion emerges from the play!

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