



GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT (2018) | PROVIDENTIAL CARE | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

PRESS START

The *Mission: Impossible* series is a mixed bag for many people. The earlier entries were made very much to the stylings of the individual directors with little plot connection between films, but in the last few (including *Fallout*), overarching plot details have started to be carried over between films. **Which films were your favorites, and why? Is the series better off with more connection between movies, or did you prefer each film to be largely its own thing?**

EQUIP

Many have criticized these series of films for having a lead character, Ethan Hunt, who doesn't have much going for him besides running...a lot. However you feel about that assessment, it's pretty undeniable in this film, in particular, the character of Ethan Hunt is given as clear of a moral code as he has ever exhibited before - one that has far-reaching consequences. While Ethan always seems to have backup contingencies for his backup contingencies, the film begins with a situation that is created because Hunt places the individual life of his friend over the safety of the world. Some would say he is foolish, but in the moment, the sanctity of life for his dearest friend, Luther, trumps doing the expected thing of leaving an expendable agent as an acceptable loss for the agency. That decision is the impetus for the film's plot, and in it, we get an interesting reflection of the level of love and care we should have for one another, as Christ has that full measure of love and care for us as individuals.

LEVEL UP

Spy films, at least the best of them, function a lot like heist movies: The payoff comes in seeing elaborate missions come together perfectly. Sometimes we wonder how people have so much plotted out, whenever the variables of any given moment are so vast. Still, it's incredible to see agents like Ethan Hunt and company carry out seemingly impossible missions without a hitch. To see a bad situation become an acceptable one in the hands of those prepared to deal with it is as satisfying a thing to witness as I can think of. Now, think about how our Creator handles us.

I would say far beyond the knowledge and skill-set of any field agent, God operates with an intelligence and ability that is incomparable and mercifully focused on us, His beloved creation. The Bible says as much:

Psalm 103:11-19 (NKJV) *"For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them. The Lord has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all."*

Verse 19, in particular, shows us even though God is a God of mercy and care, He functions with absolute authority. Nothing is unknown to Him. While we work to develop contingencies in the efforts to regain our sense of control over troubling situations, God never slips in His sovereignty over all. He can provide for us throughout all of life, the good or bad, because He has full ability to do so; nothing can keep Him from it.

Some would say Ethan Hunt acts recklessly in this film (and all others), and they may be right. If that means laying his life on the line to try and achieve the best possible scenario for both the world at-large and those close to him, he does whatever it takes. Jesus did whatever it took to make a way for us to have relationship with Him, and I believe He would have done it for any one of us, even if we were the only one who could have been saved. Each of

us is precious to our Creator, and Scripture shows us the full level of care He has for us as individuals in the midst of the vastness of time and space:

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NKJV) *“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

Jesus Christ saves us to the uttermost, and He went through the cruelest of circumstances so we could have a way to know and follow Him eternally. Know while the world around you may be scrambling to save their own skins and focused on their problems with little to no concern for yours, God is present and in control of things. The situations you may be facing may seem terrible, impossible even, to get through, but if you seek Jesus in the midst of your problems and seek to know and uplift Him, everything will be as it should be.

Proverbs 3:5-8 (NKJV) *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.”*

God knows what you are dealing with, and He cares. Better yet, He is in control and will provide a way for you.

MOD

Ask: Everyone is going through battles in their lives every day, big or small. If things seem to be going good, count your blessings, and prepare yourself for whatever hardship will present itself to you in the future, because it will surely come. If you are open to share, **what are the situations you are dealing with right now? Does there seem to be anyone around you in your life that is there for you right now? Would you be willing to accept a partner to help pray for and encourage you through this difficulty?**

Life can be hard, and Ethan, a man who has been betrayed countless times in this series, has developed a circle of people he relies on and trusts that he absolutely needs to get by. He is a damaged individual, but he would be so much worse if not for their companionship. We need that too. Be open to the encouragement of others, and if you don't have those people in your life, seek those who offer it.

Ask: Right now, in the environment of a comfortable study, it's easy to acknowledge with our lips that God is in control and He cares. Yet, in the hard times, **have you felt He truly is and indeed cares? Why/why not? Do you think our desire for God and closeness to Him impacts how/if we recognize Him in these situations?**

It's OK to honestly say you don't feel as close to God as you want to be or need to be. That should always be the goal for us, though. If you know you should be closer to God and recognize His care over your life, endeavor today to focus on following Him and don't allow the world to pull your focus from Him and sensing His power and care.

PRAY

First off, if anyone desires to be closer to God and knowing Him deeper, let that be our primary prayer today. Maybe you know someone who needs to know and acknowledge what we've discussed today. Let's pray for them and any other prayer concerns that need to be addressed right now.

THE NEXT LEVEL

Nehemiah 9:6 (NKJV) *“You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.”*

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

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