



# GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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## Disney's Christopher Robin (2018) | *Taking Time To Remember* | 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

*Disney's Christopher Robin* has an interesting heritage to draw from. Of course, being that it is from Disney, it honors the many animated features that have focused on Winnie the Pooh and friends over the years, most notably with Jim Cummings voicing Pooh and Tigger here. That said, the designs of the characters as stuffed animals in the film draws heavily from the E.H. Shepard drawings in the original stories from A.A. Milne. With the addition of several new voice actors like Brad Garrett (Eeyore), Peter Capaldi (Rabbit), and Toby Jones (Owl), among others, it honors what predates it, while doing things its own way. **What is your favorite version of *Winnie the Pooh*? How did this film rank? Were you first introduced to the character(s) through books or film, and what do the animals in the Hundred Acre Woods mean to you personally?**

### EQUIP

Given the title, the film focuses, of course, on Christopher Robin, who is now fully grown and a husband and father. It's important, though, that the film starts off with him as a boy, allowing the audience to experience what we imagined for decades: A live-action realization of a boy and his bear. After a farewell party from all the gang, we witness Christopher and Pooh reflecting on a bridge and comforting one another on a hillside. Christopher assures the silly old bear he will never forget him and he will always be in Pooh's heart. This is important, because we know Pooh spends years awaiting the return of the boy who always has a way of fixing the problems of the Hundred Acre Woods. The places we see them at are revisited later with the adult Christopher, after years away from his memories and promises; each location in their own way reminds him of his oath made to never forget. A passage we will consider that correlates to this and so much that is needed in life is found in **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**:

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NKJV)** *"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace."*

### LEVEL UP

Deep down, humans have a need to remember. Nowadays, we often talk about nostalgia in relation to entertainment and the arts, but memories go beyond the things we love and extend much more to those we love as well. Relationships with others morph and change over time as we age and move through life. Sadly, life circumstances can remove us from the company of others, while many relationships seemingly end with the passing of another. The former seems to be what is at work in this film; still, reflecting on this lesson in light of those we've lost may be exactly what we need right

now. In order to remember the times of the past, we must take the time and make the trip, so to speak. We must slow down to remember things as they were through the revisiting of places and spending time with those we love and care for. This keeps us grounded and allows us to continue forward in life in the best possible ways. Taking these times of rest and reflection are not only helpful; they are necessary. The saying goes, "Never forget your roots." Amidst a busy life, Christopher Robin had to revisit the Hundred Acre Woods to remember his roots, and sometimes, we have to slow down to remind ourselves of where we are supposed to be as well.

**Joshua 4:1-9 (NKJV)** *"And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying: 'Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.'" Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever." And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the Lord had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day."*

God had delivered the Israelites in a great and mighty way, and Joshua sought to memorialize the occasion for the benefit of the people then and for those that followed. It was vital to remind others of the great things God had done. Beyond this study, never forget this point: Remembering what God has done in our lives will always keep us hungry for what He will do in our future. Those twelve stones were indeed just rocks, but they pointed to a need for God in the past and future; Christopher Robin's childhood fun was something that shouldn't be lost. It should be remembered and revisited often, and likewise, we need to remind ourselves daily of what God has done, because He desires to do even more in the future.

## MOD

Christopher Robin finds himself unable to experience the weekend with his family because of work commitments, and it is his struggle with these that runs throughout the film. **How realistic is it for you to make the time to enjoy what you love with those you love?** I think the film makes it clear we must somehow make it happen, but **what are the things keeping you from prioritizing time in these areas?**

Joy and humor find their way back into Christopher's life when he reconnects with his old childhood pals. **Who are the people in your life you instantly come alive with when you spend time with them? When was the last time you were able to spend time with them? Could you begin planning a time of reconnection with them after this study?**

## PRAY

As we close in prayer, are any of you feeling particularly stressed right now? If so, in addition to any other needs you have for yourself or those you know, let's pray about the things giving you troubles and that God may provide a way for these things to pass, if it be His will.

## THE NEXT LEVEL

**Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV)** *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

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