

## **Small Group Study Guide**



### **“Mary Poppins Returns”**

**July 14, 2019**

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the assurance that there is a life beyond our world. Thank you for being light in the midst of darkness. Father, forgive us for the times when we think your absent or angry with us during the midst of difficult circumstances. Remind us that you are with us even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Help us to have the faith of children once again. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen.

#### **SCRIPTURE:**

##### **Jeremiah 29:11-13**

11 I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. 12 When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. 13 When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me.



## INTRODUCTION

In Depression-era London, a now-grown Jane and Michael Banks, along with Michael's three children, are visited by the enigmatic Mary Poppins following a personal loss. Through her unique magical skills, and with the aid of her friend Jack, she helps the family rediscover the joy and wonder missing in their lives. So where does this story point us toward the Gospel?

Like Michael Banks in *Mary Poppins Returns*, we all go through difficult times in life. During those difficult times we must not get resentful and angry but put our faith in God. We must follow the light that shines in the darkness. That is where we find hope in the midst of despair and the assurance of a future beyond this life.

## QUESTIONS

- 1) Did you see the movie *Mary Poppins Returns*? If yes, what do you think about the movie? If no, did you see the original *Mary Poppins* movie? What did you think about that movie?
- 2) The song “The Place Where the Lost Things go” in *Mary Poppins* alludes to a life after death. Do you believe in a life after death? What does that look like for you?
- 3) Does your belief in an afterlife affect the way you live your life today?
- 4) In the movie *Mary Poppins Returns*, Michael Banks has lost his wife and he may lose his house. Mary Poppins comes along to try and help him rediscover joy and hope. Have you ever seen someone demonstrate great faith in God despite difficult circumstances? If so, how did the person’s faith influence your own.
- 5) The song “Trip a Little Light Fantastic” in the movie *Mary Poppins Returns* says we must follow the light in the midst of darkness. Have there been times when it seemed that darkness was trying to put out God’s light in your life? What spiritual practices keep you growing closer to God, so that God’s light keeps shining more and more brightly for you?

## FINAL APPLICATION

What area of your life do you need to put more trust in God this week?