



Ramona and Beezus

Coming to Theaters July 23rd

About the Film

The adventures of young Ramona Quimby (newcomer Joey King) and her big sister Beezus (Selena Gomez) come to life in this all new film based on the best-selling books (over 30 million...and counting) by Beverly Cleary. Ramona's vivid imagination, boundless energy, and accident-prone antics keep everyone she meets on their toes. But her irrepressible sense of fun, adventure and mischief come in handy when she puts her mind to helping save her family's home.

About the Bible Study Guide

Ramona and Beezus is a family film for all ages. It provides an opportunity to discuss God's perspective on what it means to be "cool". Preserving a Christian identity against the grain of peer pressure is one of the preeminent challenges facing church youth today. Quite often Christian teens can feel misunderstood at the least, or even an object of ridicule or persecution at the most. It is important for every Christian to feel empowered to be different even when the rest of the world is demanding that they conform. Understanding the themes of the film—self respect, understanding, character, and the value of family—is the reason these and other topics are addressed in the movie and why we've created this Bible Study Guide. With this guide, you can utilize one the great themes in *Ramona and Beezus* as a discussion tool with your church or family- What it means to be "cool".

Discussions:

In an effort to help you reinforce the themes and messages of *Ramona and Beezus*, we have chosen clips from the film that you can show to your group. These clips can be downloaded online at walden.com/biblestudy. These clips are followed up with questions and scripture found in the Discussion Guide. The questions should draw your group members into a conversation about what they have just seen. The bracketed text are tips to help as you facilitate the discussion.

extraordinary



Play Clip: Dad's Dance

In this clip, the father is dancing in a silly fashion to solicit laughs from his family. The younger daughter Ramona laughs, while her older sister, Beezus, begs her Mom to "make him stop."

- Why does Beezus see her Dad's dancing as embarrassing while Ramona thinks it's funny?
- What are some things that were really fun when you were young, but you would never do in Junior High and High School?

<Solicit answers- Pretend Action Figures. Hide and Seek. Tag. Red Light Green Light, Recess. Duck Duck Goose>

- Why do people stop playing these games?
- Did these things stop becoming fun?

In this clip Beezus is going to a school dance.

- Have any of you ever been to a dance before?
- Have you ever seen music playing but no one is dancing? Why is that?

<Solicit answers- Because they're worried what people think. No one wants to stand out or be the first.>

- Is that fun, standing around a circle staring at an empty dance floor?
- But if we go to any preschool or Kindergarten and play music and say it's time to dance, what happens?

<Solicit answers- All the kids want to dance and will jump up almost immediately.>

Play Clip: Strut and Ignore

- What does it mean to be cool?

<Solicit answers- To look good, to be confident. To be strong. To be fit. Nice clothes. Handsome. Funny. Tough.>

- How does a cool guy walk?
- Can anyone show me?
- What's a cool walk look like?

<Invite some of the kids to demonstrate a cool walk.>

- How about the expression?

Let me see someone strike a "cool" pose.

<Invite some of the kids to do their best cool pose>

- In general cool has something to do with how people see someone doesn't it?

Maybe from how someone looks or the things they can do, like a really good athlete, or maybe even the things someone owns like an expensive car or nice clothes. All of us, at one time or other, spent some part of our lives in the pursuit of "cool".





Play Clip: Coloring Inside the Lines

When we were young, we were not in the pursuit of cool. We were free from this burden, but from junior high on, what we believe people will think of us commands much of what we do every single day. This is a chain that holds many of us in bondage the rest of our lives.

Read: Luke 18:16.

What do you think this means?

What do you think it means to be cool to God?

There was one man in the bible known to be a man after God's own heart.

Can anyone name who that would be?

<Solicit answers until you get King David>

Read: I Samuel 16:1-12

David was the youngest of eight sons. He was a shepherd- to most people, nothing particularly cool. Even his own father didn't see him as worthy enough to present to Samuel with the rest of his sons. But the Lord tells us he doesn't look at the things that man looks at and in David, God saw something special. God turned him into a historical icon, into a figure that men have admired and speak about to this very day. The ultimate warrior. The ultimate musician. He was a man surrounded by men that would die for him, and ultimately God made him a king of a great nation.

There was plenty about David that men would have seen as cool, but what was it about David that God thought was cool?

What was it about David that made him a man after God's own heart?



Read: Psalm 27

Read: 2 Samuel 6:14-16 and 2 Samuel 6:20-22.

What can we tell about David?

Did David care about looking cool?

What did David care about?

Read: Hebrews 11:6.

Read: Psalm 40:4.

What is absolutely vital to please God?

Did David have faith?

What did David tell us would happen if we had faith in the Lord?

David was not perfect. He was not a man without sin. But he was a man with great faith. A faith he put in action through out his entire life, and God rewarded him for it. David is no different than you or I in that he was ridiculed and suffered for his convictions and his beliefs. But he rose above them, and he never lost hope that God would keep his promise to bless him, and eventually God was able to use David's faith and bless him beyond his wildest dreams. The promise is for us as well. In David's own words, if each of us believe and trust in God, then we too will be called Blessed.

