



A BEAUTIFUL DAY
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
DISCUSSION GUIDE



Watch the “Heart of the Story” to learn more about Fred’s faith and legacy

WHAT IF YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH MISTER ROGERS?

Tom Hanks portrays Mister Rogers in **A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**, a timely story of kindness triumphing over cynicism, based on the true story of a real-life friendship between Fred Rogers and journalist Tom Junod. After a jaded magazine writer (Emmy winner Matthew Rhys) is assigned a profile of Fred Rogers, he overcomes his skepticism, learning about kindness, love and forgiveness from America’s most beloved neighbor. Directed by Marielle Heller. Written by Micah Fitzerman-Blue & Noah Harpster; inspired by the article “Can You Say ... Hero?” by Tom Junod.

Have you ever had a friend who changed your life? In **A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**, Mister Rogers loves his friend Lloyd by listening to his story, hearing his hurt, and encouraging him to forgive. He sees and accepts his friend as a child of God, illustrating how one person can inspire a world of kindness.

As an ordained minister, Mister Rogers famously considered his work in television to be a ministry. He called the space between the TV set and the viewer “holy ground.” Perhaps you grew up watching *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*. The red sweater, Daniel Tiger, and the Neighborhood of Make-Believe remind you of childhood. Perhaps his episodes were the only times you ever heard someone say, “There’s no person in the whole world like you. I like you just the way you are.”

Mister Rogers lived out an embodied Gospel, showing friendship and love to anyone he met. Every day, you have the opportunity to love your neighbor and live out Fred’s legacy of faith and friendship.

Reflect and Respond:

- Who has been a Mister Rogers in your life?
- Do you know someone who needs a neighbor today? If so, how can you be the neighbor they need? In what way can you reach out to them and share/show kindness?
- What do you think it means to really see someone as made in the Image of God?



WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THE MAD THAT YOU FEEL?

“We are trying to give the world positive ways to deal with their feelings.” – Mister Rogers, **A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

No matter how old you are, talking about feelings can be difficult. How can we express emotions in a healthy way, especially difficult emotions like anger, fear, or guilt?

Mister Rogers was passionate about creating a television program that would help children with their cognitive and emotional development. He never shied away from tackling the hard topics on his show: divorce, racial inequality, death. He reminded his viewers that feelings are normal and human.

In the film, Mister Rogers says to Lloyd, “Anything human is mentionable, and anything mentionable is manageable.” He helps Lloyd process his own emotions and articulate the “mad” that he feels. And Lloyd is not the same person after encountering this man of faith. His life is changed forever.

Reflect and Respond:

- How do you usually process anger or fear?
- Is there someone in your life who you can confide in?
- Look through Scripture and search out times when Jesus was angry or sad. How did He process emotion? What can we learn from His example? (For example: Matthew 23:33, John 11:35, Mark 11:15)





WE COULD ALL USE A LITTLE KINDNESS.

“There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind.” – Mister Rogers

In today’s world, we all need to be reminded of the power of love – and the importance of saying, *Won’t you be my neighbor?* It’s always a beautiful day to be kind, and it’s a truism that a little kindness goes a long way. So today, choose kindness. Uplift others with your words. Find ways to serve your community.

James 1:22 says, “Do not merely listen to the word...Do what it says.” (NIV) Mister Rogers embodied the Gospel by loving his neighbors and sharing kindness. You can, too.

Reflect and Respond:

- Have you ever been the recipient of a random act of kindness? How did it make you feel?
- Brainstorming time! Think of ways you can serve those in your neighborhood. Now choose one and share the power of kindness.



Like what you see? Go to www.Resources.ABeautifulDay.Movie for share tools and resources to help activate this film in your community.

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