

SMURFS™

THE LOST VILLAGE

#smurfsmovie

DISCUSSION GUIDE INTRODUCTION



In this fully animated, all-new take on the Smurfs, a mysterious map sets Smurfette on a thrilling race through the Forbidden Forest. Along with her best friends, Brainy, Clumsy and Hefty, Smurfette encounters magical creatures in hopes of finding a mysterious lost village before the evil wizard Gargamel does. This rollercoaster journey filled with action and danger leads the Smurfs to the discovery of the biggest secret in Smurf history!

Smurfs: The Lost Village is fun for the whole family and, like all good family films, full of themes that can spark post-screening conversations. These discussion starters on the next few pages will help you talk about important themes in the film.

CAST

Demi Lovato - Smurfette
Rainn Wilson - Gargamel
Joe Manganiello - Hefty
Jack McBrayer - Clumsy
Danny Pudi - Brainy
Michelle Rodriguez - Smurfstorm
Ellie Kemper - Smurfblossom
Ariel Winter - Smurfily
with Mandy Patinkin - Papa Smurf
and Julia Roberts - Smurfwillow

IN THEATERS APRIL 7

THEME ONE: SOURCE OF OUR IDENTITY

GUIDING SCRIPTURE:*

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." —Ephesians 2:10

A central theme of *Smurfs: The Lost Village* is Smurfette's "lack" of an identity . . . or rather her incomplete understanding of who she is. The rest of the Smurfs are defined by what they do (Table Eater) or by a key element of their personality like Brainy or Clumsy. Although Smurfette is a member of the village, the rest of the Smurfs don't know what a *Smurfette* is. Papa Smurf puts it this way: "Smurfette's name doesn't tell us anything about her. It doesn't tell us who she is or what she does."

Who are you? It's one of life's biggest questions. Mother, son, athlete, artist, student, musician, father, daughter, engineer. Though one of these words may describe you, something far greater defines you. You're defined not by what you do but by *whose* you are. You are God's handiwork. Your identity isn't found in *your* name, but in your Savior's: Jesus Christ. As a Christ follower, your purpose is to glorify him. Sure, God gives you roles and talents. But when you give those abilities and positions back to God, you will find the greatest satisfaction and purpose.

Smurfette never finds out what an "ette" is, but she discovers something greater. We do the same when we cling the source of our true identity and find the boldness to do the good works he prepared us to do.



IN THEATERS APRIL 7

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. What words would you use to describe yourself? How can you give those things to God?
2. What's the problem with trying to find your identity in accomplishments, careers, money, abilities or relationships?
3. How does finding your identity in Christ give you greater freedom to pursue your goals and dreams in life?



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THEME TWO: A SERVANT'S HEART

GUIDING SCRIPTURE:

"The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." —Matthew 23:11-12



One of the main points of *Smurfs: The Lost Village* is Smurfette discovering her identity. And in a real way, she discovers her true self while serving others. When she goes on the journey to warn the lost village that they are in danger, she protects them and puts herself in harm's way in the process. Many of the Smurfs put others before themselves. For example, Hefty demonstrates a servant's heart when he sacrifices himself to save Smurfette after Gargamel discovers the lost village.

No matter who we are or what we do, we can serve others. The Bible tells us to value others above ourselves (Philippians 2:3). Even if service isn't built into our careers, like Policeman Smurf or Therapist Smurf, we can still put our skills to good use in helping others. It might be as simple as checking in on an elderly neighbor from time to time or cooking a meal for a family who just had a baby.

If you struggle in finding ways to honor God and spread his love, service is a great place to start. Like Smurfette, it might unlock secrets and strengths you didn't know you possessed.

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QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. How is service a part of your life? How can you make it a bigger part? Write down some ways you can serve the people nearest you.
2. Read Philippians 2:3. Why do you think humility and service are linked? How can being humble give you more opportunities to serve?
3. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "The greatest among you will be your servant" (Matthew 23:11)? How does serving make you great?



THEME THREE: COURAGE TO ACT

GUIDING SCRIPTURE:*

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." —Joshua 1:9

One important characteristic of Smurfette is her bravery. Uncertain of what lies beyond the wall, she sets out to warn the other community of Smurfs. Before she can slip into the Forbidden Forest, Brainy, Clumsy and Hefty catch up with her and insist on joining her journey. She resists, saying, "I can't ask you to do that." But Hefty says, "You didn't ask," and Brainy adds, "We volunteered." Together, they overcome treacherous terrain and find the lost village. Then they stand together to protect the other Smurfs from Gargamel's attack.

The Bible is filled with stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things through God's power. But in almost every circumstance, they had to show courage by taking the first step. When Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, the Jordan River didn't stop flowing until the priests carrying the ark of the covenant stepped into the waters (Joshua 3:15-16).

We may never stop a river or encounter fighting flowers and glowing bunnies, but every day we have the opportunity to show courage. We need to be brave in order to make a new friend, get a new job, move to a new city or stand up for what we believe. Without courage it's difficult to move forward in life or in our faith.



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QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. When have you showed courage? What was the result?
2. Remember a time that someone's bravery inspired you. Who was it and what did they do that motivated you to act courageously?
3. In what area of your life do you need to show more courage? What is stopping you and how can you overcome that?



THEME FOUR: OUR PAST DOESN'T DEFINE US

GUIDING SCRIPTURE:*

"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" —2 Corinthians 5:17

The film opens with a shocking revelation when we learn that Gargamel actually created Smurfette. He made her to lead him to the Smurfs' village. Papa Smurf and others know her origins, but they don't let that knowledge affect how they see her.

Gargamel, however, holds Smurfette's past over her, saying, "The rotten apple doesn't fall too far from the tree, does it?"

At times Smurfette seems troubled by her past. She wants to prove she's different, saying, "Gargamel's wrong about me. It's not my purpose to help him. I'm meant to save those Smurfs." She tries to redeem her past by forming new relationships and atoning for mistakes.

We all have a past. In some cases our experiences are pleasant and life-giving, sources of inspiration and motivation. However, some of us might have "darker" pasts, full of pain and regrettable decisions. The good news of the gospel is that the mistakes of our past can be forgiven because of Jesus Christ's love and sacrifice. Jesus died so we could have new life. Our old selves are gone! God doesn't dwell on the mistakes of our past (Hebrews 10:17), so we shouldn't either. Instead we should move forward as a new creation.



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QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. If our past doesn't define us, what should define us?
2. Read 1 John 1:9. According to this verse, when we confess our sins to God, what does he do for us?
3. Why does God want you to live without regret and shame?



THEME FIVE: LOVED INTO BEING

GUIDING SCRIPTURE:*

"Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions." —Ephesians 2:4-5

There's something joyful about Smurf Village, which is embodied by Papa Smurf and especially his relationship with Smurfette. Though Gargamel created Smurfette for evil, Papa Smurf changed her for good. Although we don't see it in the movie, Papa Smurf loved her into a new identity. He showed her a different way of living and interacting with her fellow Smurfs. He changed her and her future. When her life was on the line, it was his love—along with the love of the other Smurfs—that brought her back to life.

From the beginning God created man and woman for community. We were made to love God and be loved by him. Even when our sin separated us from God, his love redeemed us. He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes might have eternal life (John 3:16). God's unconditional love is the most powerful force in the universe.

Love always overcomes evil. Love perseveres and never fails. Love is life giving. What if we all lived from a point of unconditional love? It would be more than enough to build some amazing communities and save some lives in the process.



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QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. How did God love humans into being? How does his love give you life today?
2. Read 1 John 4:16 and 19-20. Why is loving others so important?
3. In what ways can you pass on God's life-giving love?