



# AT THE MINI MOVIES

## JULY 4 - FOR THE BIRDS

### START TALKING | ASK A QUESTION TO GET YOUR GROUP TALKING.

- What is your favorite 4th of July activity: fireworks, camping, BBQ, a family reunion? Why?

### START THINKING | ASK A QUESTION TO GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- For the Birds, a short film that premiered with Monsters, Inc., is a story about the power of our words to affect others and ourselves.
- In elementary school we said “sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me?” Is that true?
- Read Ephesians 4:29-30
- Paul says the opposite; that our words have great power to uplift or to hurt each other. Would it be more accurate to say “sticks and stones will break my bones but words can cut me deeply?”
- Read Matthew 12:36
- Jesus says what we say matters deeply. What practices can we put into place to help our words uplift more often than the hurt?

### START SHARING | CHOOSE A QUESTION TO CREATE OPENNESS.

- Read Ephesians 4:31-32
- We need surround ourselves with people who seek to live out this passage. Do we? How can we get around more people that strive to live like this?
- Read Ephesians 4:21-24
- We also need to lean into our new life in Jesus. The Holy Spirit constantly works to renew our spirits each day, changing our default setting slowly from one of anger and revenge to love and forgiveness.
- Do you know people that seem to always lead with love and forgiveness first? What made them that way?

### START PRAYING | BE BOLD AND PRAY WITH POWER.

*Jesus, our words have power and we have so little idea of what each of us carry with us every day. May we lead with love and forgiveness. We confess we don't always get it right; we are short with each other, we are ungracious at times, we are unforgiving. May your Holy Spirit do the deep transformation work in us so we can lead at all times, our first thought, is love and kindness and patience and peace. In your name we pray together, Amen.*

### START DOING | COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

Learn more about the letter to the Ephesians in this 3-day devotional:  
<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/23930-book-of-ephesians>