

Battle for Your Heart

Team Preparation

TEAM MEETING 3

Before you meet (all team members)

- Clear your calendar and come prepared for a longer-than-normal team meeting (approx. 3 hours)

Week 3 Team Meeting Objectives

- Continue establishing trust and learning how to share authentically within your team
- Watch and discuss team movie with an emphasis on understanding how you are impacted at all four levels of the heart

Heart Check (15 minutes)

Each person gives a short (2-3 minute) update on how you are coming into the meeting. Are you in a good place? Distracted? Experiencing challenges that have you discouraged? What kind of support do you need from your team?

Movie and Main Discussion (2 ½ -3 hrs)

BEFORE YOU BEGIN THE MOVIE

Watching *Gladiator* in light of the Four Realities

The *Battle for the Heart* event is built on the foundation of the Four Realities, a framework for winning the battle for your heart.

In the [theatrical trailer](#) of *The Fellowship of the Ring*,
four powerful statements speak deeply to most men and women.

They are:

1. Fate has chosen him.
2. This task was appointed to him, and if he does not find a way, no one will.
3. Evil will hunt them.
4. A Fellowship will protect him.

Story is the language of the heart. Epic stories particularly speak to the echoes in every man's heart of that Larger Story for which we are created. As Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, God has set eternity in our hearts.

These four statements from *The Fellowship of the Ring* are echoes of
Four Eternal Realities:

1. God has chosen you for His Larger Story.
2. He has given you a part to play that is yours and yours alone; if you do not find the way, no one will.
3. Evil is hunting you.
4. A Fellowship desires to protect you.

One way that God has set eternity in our hearts is through the deep desires that He has placed in our hearts. Some of those desires are:

- Purpose, to be part of something larger, transcendence.
- Relationship: to love and be loved, to pursue and be pursued, community, family.
- Impact, significance.
- Honor, respect.
- To be known & valued: understood, heard, seen.
- To protect and provide, to be protected and provided for, security, safety.
- To come through: duty, to hear "well done."
- Beauty and creativity.
- Justice and freedom.
- Peace, wholeness, completion, home, order.

As you watch *Gladiator*, notice when these desires are stirred within you. A significant clue to knowing when a deep desire is being stirred is when you experience feelings. Those feelings are connected to a deep desire. So as various scenes touch emotion within you, pause and see if you can discern what deep desire is underneath the feeling. Knowing your deep desires will guide you into understanding more of the unique way God has created you in his image.

The desire of every man to give himself to something larger than himself is seen in the theme of the “Dream that is Rome.” When Marcus Aurelius meets with Maximus after the battle, Maximus clearly wants to go home yet Marcus Aurelius asks him to take on one more assignment. Maximus struggles with his desire to go home and the powerful pull of the “Dream that is Rome,” as well as his love for and desire to please and honor Marcus Aurelius.

The scene changes as Evil begins to hunt Maximus through the fear and pride of Commodus. After Maximus is betrayed, wounded, finds his family murdered, and is sold into slavery, he gives up and even refuses to fight. He has nothing to live for. The enemy has shut him down and killed his heart. He eventually fights because he has to in order to survive. Then when there is a chance to go to Rome, he discovers a powerful energy source: revenge against the one who murdered his family. This is clearly seen when Maximus first encounters Commodus in the arena.

When Lucilla comes to ask him to cooperate in a plot to overthrow Commodus he refuses. She appeals to him as the man she once knew, a man of principle, who loved her father and whom her father loved, a man who served Rome well. Maximus responds, “That man is gone. Your brother did his work well.”

Maximus begins to change as he once again gets in touch with who he is, a man of honor and strength, a man who longs to serve the man he loved, a man who longs to play his part in something larger than he is. You clearly see this before the big fight with the champion and the lions, as he “there was a dream once that was Rome and this (the mob in the Colosseum) is not it.”

In the final scene it is critical to note the energy that carried Maximus all the way to the end. You will clearly see his desires to protect and provide for his men and for Lucilla and Lucius, his desire to fulfill his part of the “dream that was Rome,” his desire to please Marcus Aurelius, and the longing to go to his family.

*****BEGIN THE MOVIE – THEN SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DEBRIEF QUESTIONS*****

AFTER THE MOVIE

As you experience this final, climactic scene let yourself experience your own desires and then seek to understand what those are.

After the movie spend some time debriefing. Here are a few questions to get you started:

- What is the overall impact of the movie on you?
- Which scenes most significantly affected you?
- What about that scene was most powerful?
- Can you get in touch with the feelings it generated?
- Are you aware of what desires the scene touched? Consider the list of desires above.
- How do you see the Four Realities come through this movie and what does that speak to you about life and yourself?

We pray you will not only enjoy watching this powerful movie, but also grow in hearing the echoes of the Larger Story that it speaks to the desires God placed in you.