

News Story Summary

In the weekend proceeding February 23, 2015, the top movies by weekend gross were (in reverse order): The Duff; McFarland, USA; The Spongebob Movie: Sponge Out of Water; Kingsman: The Secret Service; and Fifty Shades of Grey. It was the second week for Fifty Shades of Grey to take the top spot, having earned \$130 million over the first two weekends of its release.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the sentence “Top box office movies this weekend.” Note: The rankings and dollar figures listed above will change after Monday, March 2.)

Focus Attention

As the group arrives, invite them to share their thoughts about the acceptance of sinful behavior in our culture. Call attention to a list of the most viewed recent films. Lead the group to discuss what they believe the most watched movies reveal about our society.

Say: After Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom; the Southern Kingdom, although not conquered, still experienced the influence of Assyrian culture. Zephaniah prophesied about the eventual destruction called “the day of the Lord”. This destruction was in response to the sinful activities of the nation of Israel. Zephaniah also brought a message of eventual blessings, for not just Israel, but the entire earth.

Ask: Are we accountable for the things embraced by our society? Challenge the group to look for answers to this question as they study Zephaniah.

Challenge

Remind the group of the top movies and what they reveal about our society. Lead the group in listing ways that we can “push back” against this embracing of sin.

Ask: If we begin with pushing back the acceptance of sin in our own lives, what changes will need to be made personally?

Pray: Thank God for letting his truth remain in the world through the Bible. Ask God to reveal personal sins that are helping to breed a cultural acceptance of sinful living. Ask the Holy Spirit to give us courage as we push back against this cultural acceptance of sin.