**The Blind Side**

Based on the extraordinary true story.

This movie is based on the true story of Michael Oher, offensive tackle for the Baltimore Ravens. As a homeless teenager, Michael was invited into the lives and hearts of the Tuohy family and had his life completely changed forever.

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**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think this movie is called “The Blind Side”?

2. Beyond the help of the Tuohy family, what do you think was the difference between Michael Oher and his friends in Hurt Village (i.e. Dave)? What may have prevented them from finding a way out?

3. Refer back to the Golden Rule, which states that you should love your neighbor as yourself. Would you be willing to take in a complete stranger as the Tuohys did with Michael Oher? What are the rewards of helping someone in that way? What could be the challenges?

4. Do you think the Tuohys are good people? What do you think it takes to be considered a good person? What does the Bible saying about taking care of others?

5. Have you had someone who believed in you more than you believed in yourself? What did he/she do to push and inspire you? How can you inspire others in your life?

6. Did you ever have a teacher or person in your life who you felt was holding you back? Why do you think one of Michael’s teachers was unwilling to just pass him in order for him to get a football scholarship? Would you have passed him without him earning the grade?

7. What was the impact of many of Michael’s teachers passing him along in school when he did not complete the work?

8. Do you think the Tuohys are good people? What do you think it takes to be considered a good person? What does the Bible saying about taking care of others?

9. What was your reaction to how Leigh Ann’s friends treated her when they found out she was helping Michael? Do you think you would be strong enough to stand up for what you think is right with your closest friends?

10. What were the various trust issues that existed in the movie for Michael?

11. What were the motives of Coach Cotton for getting Michael admitted into the school? Are all selfish motives bad?

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**Programming Suggestions**

- Organize a drive to collect items for foster youth in your community. You can collect jackets, shoes, clothes, books, or other items that would be appropriate.

- Invite members of your congregation to write a letter to someone who inspired them and made a difference in their life. Provide the paper, envelopes, and stamps to make mailing the letters easy.

- Coordinate a tutoring program for the kids in a near-by community. Help kids learn to read, do math, or just build a stronger sense of self.
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONTINUED):**

12. Do you think it was necessary for the NCAA to do an investigation of Michael's situation?  Were the questions that asked fair?

13. What were some issues of racism that existed in this film?  Does racism still exist today?  Discuss some current examples.  What can you do to stop racism?

14. What was Michael’s secret for being able to forget his past and not allow it to impact his future? How does his determination and motivation impact you? How do you think your faith helps you overcome the obstacles in your life to reach your goals?

15. How did Leigh Ann react when Michael used her own words against her (i.e. “Don’t you lie to me”)?

16. Why do you think Michael never told anyone before Leigh Ann that he hated being called “Big Mike”? Do you have a nickname?  Do you like it or not? Why or why not?

17. Do you know anyone as controlling as Leigh Ann Tuohy?  What are the benefits and challenges of spending time with someone with this quality?  What are the benefits and challenges of being that person?

18. Share your thoughts on Michael’s poem (White Walls). What did you think about his reaction to The Charge of the Light Brigade?

19. Why do you think Miss Sue felt it was important for Leigh Ann to know she is a Democrat?  Do you think that could have impacted her tutoring of Michael? How do political views have an impact on religion?

20. What does it mean to you when someone says they have your back?  Do you have people in your life who have your back? How do your church, community, and God have your back?

21. In what ways are you helping others in your life right now? If you are not, where can you start?

**DISCUSS AND REFLECT ON THE FOLLOWING QUOTES FROM THE MOVIE:**

“You don’t admit Michael Oher because of sports. You admit him because it’s the right thing to do” (Coach Cotton).

“He scored in the 98th percentile for protection instincts” (Leigh Ann to Coach Cotton).

“She’s about to get her way” (Sean to S.J.).

“You’re changing that boy’s life” said Leigh Ann’s friend.  “No, he’s changing mine” said Leigh Ann.

“The first check you write is for the mortgage, but the second is for the insurance” (Leigh Ann comparing football player salaries to household bills to be paid).

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