

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

"The Blind Side" starring Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw, Quinton Aaron, 2009, PG-13, 129 minutes

Major themes:

- Compassion
- Homelessness
- Public Housing
- Football
- Loyalty
- Adoption
- Family
- Opportunities

Major characters:

- Leigh Anne Tuohy
- Sean Tuohy
- Michael Oher
- S. J.
- Collins

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

Background info:

- The movie is based on "*The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game*," a non-fiction book by American author Michael Lewis, written about the true story of Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy.
- This movie was filmed entirely in Atlanta!
- Several real college football coaches played themselves but at former schools: Phillip Fulmer (was Tennessee head coach, now at East Tennessee State University), Lou Holtz (was South Carolina head coach, now a motivational speaker), Houston Nutt (was Arkansas head coach, now a college football analyst for CBS), Ed Orgeron (was Ole Miss head coach, now at the University of Southern California), Nick Saban (was LSU head coach, now at the University of Alabama), and Tommy Tuberville (was Auburn head coach, now at the University of Cincinnati).
- The tackle highlighted near the beginning of the movie happened on November 18th, 1985, during a Monday Night Football game between the Giants and the Redskins. It was the most gruesome injury even seen on a nationally-televised regular season NFL game.
- The real Collins played volleyball and was a cheerleader in high school, and went on to be an Ole Miss cheerleader and state pole-vault champion.
- In preparation for his role, Quinton Aaron (who played Michael) trained with the Georgia Tech football team.
- Sandra Bullock turned her role down three times because of her concerns about playing the part of a devout Christian. She considered dropping out early on but stuck with it so as not to harm the project. She ended up winning the Best Actress Oscar at the 82nd Academy Awards.
- Collins, an A student, rearranged her schedule and dropped out of some AP classes, to share more classes with Michael and help him graduate.
- Sandra Bullock took a pay cut to make the film and agreed to a percentage of the film's profits, which turned out to be considerable, as this film became the highest-grossing sports drama of all time.

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

Scriptures:

Colossians 3:12 (The Message) – *“So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline.”*

Proverbs 14:21 (The Message) – *“It’s criminal to ignore a neighbor in need, but compassion for the poor—what a blessing!”*

James 2:15 – 17 (NLT) – *“Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, ‘Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well’—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”*

Galatians 6:8 – 10 (NLT) – *“Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.”*

Romans 8:15 – 16 (NLT) – *“You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, ‘Abba, Father.’”*

Romans 8:31 – 32, 35 – 39 (The Message) – *“The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ’s love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture . . . I’m absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God’s love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.”*

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

Discussion points:

1. Leigh Anne responded to a friend's remark, "*You are changing that boy's life*" with "*No, he's changing mine.*" What kind of impact is there when we help others from a distance? What kind of impact is there when we get personally involved to reach out and help someone?
2. In our lives and in our world today, what are some practical ways in which we can protect someone's blind side (i.e. protect them from what they can't see coming)?
3. Would you be willing to take a complete stranger into your home to spend the night? What would be challenging? What would be rewarding?
4. Leigh Anne stood up for what she believed was right, even to the point of challenging her closest friends. Would you be willing to take a stand for justice and truth even if it meant standing alone?
5. How can loyalty to a team, a political party, a demographic, or any other group affect our ability to love well and see clearly?
6. What opportunities can you personally offer to someone who may not otherwise consider or get involved with a particular pursuit? Consider your skills, expertise, experience, and connections.