



With One Voice

[A Filmmaker's Calling: Charlie Matz]

Synopsis

Charlie Matz, a filmmaker from Michigan, shares how a moment of truth and opposition tested his resolve to obey and trust God.

Prepare the Soil

Before viewing *A Filmmaker's Calling*, ask someone in the group to open with prayer, asking God for insight, wisdom and the faith to take great risks for God. Once you have prayed, ask the following questions.

1. What are your favorite movies? Why?
2. What makes film such a powerful artistic medium?
3. How is God moving in film like never before?
4. What kind of risks did the pioneers in this movement take?

Plant the Seed

Play the video: *A Filmmaker's Calling*.

Cultivate the Heart

1. Find one person in the Bible whom God called to do something extraordinary by faith. What kernels of truth can you glean from his or her experience?
2. Ask each person to look up a key Bible verse related to taking risks and trusting God. A good place to start is the "Faith Hall of Fame" in Hebrews 11.

3. Ask:

- a. What verse helps you when you are trying to follow God's direction to take risks? Example:
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight." Proverbs 3:5-6
- b. What do trust, obedience, and faithfulness all have in common?
- c. What does the Bible have to say about fear, risk-taking, faith, and courage?

Grow

Dig deeper as you discuss the video. Use these questions and exercises to help your group discover new ways to grow spiritually, emotionally and professionally.

1. How can obstacles in doing God's will be good for us?
2. How are challenges and obstacles positive influences as we seek God's will? Charlie shared his "moment of truth" experience in the video. Have you had one like it? What were the obstacles you faced? What did you decide and why?
3. Going against what others consider to be common sense is tough enough. How can you be sure God is guiding you to do something?
4. What moment of truth is God putting in your life right now? How do you think you will respond?
5. Find out what is new in the world of Christian filmmaking. What kind of films or projects are they developing? Where are Christians making the most difference in the film industry?
6. Invite a filmmaker to coffee and get to know their journey. Ask them how God challenges them and proves Himself faithful through the ups and downs they experience as a filmmaker.
7. Incorporate film into your life. Invite an unbeliever to see a film you like and use the time afterwards to share what you are learning. Pick up a camera and become a storyteller for a day. How can film teach you something about your own artistic discipline?