

BIG GEORGE FOREMAN

DISCUSSION GUIDE

**THIS GUIDE CONTAINS SPOILERS, AND IS INTENDED TO
USE AFTER THE FILM HAS BEEN SEEN.**

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®
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GAINING THE WORLD (BUT LOSING YOUR SOUL)

Becoming Heavyweight Champion of the World—that seems like gaining the world, doesn't it? But what does it profit someone to gain the whole world and lose their soul?

Jesus speaking here ...

“And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’”

Mark 8:34-38 ESV.

To gain is to acquire. And *this* is a really huge gain—the entire world! Wow! This extraordinary gain sets up the comparison. Forfeit here is more than to lose, it is to be injured or to experience detriment and harm. Jesus is making it clear that the pursuit of acquiring can be “exhilarating,” but it will harm and negatively impact a person’s soul.

George Foreman’s pursuit of the world heavyweight championship, and with it the accompanying fame and fortune, was exhilarating, but it competed with his soul.

Jesus deals with this head on in the parable of the rich man.

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have acquired?’ So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Luke 12:20-21

Questions for Discussion:

What has competed in the past for your soul and distracted you from following Jesus?

What currently is the one thing most likely to compete with Jesus for your attention? How are you fighting against that?

NOT JUST BETTER—BRAND NEW

Big George became a “new man.” Scripture would call him a “new” creation after he came to faith.

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away and the new has come.”
2 Corinthians 5:17

Surrendering to Christ is not self-improvement, but instead it’s death to self and becoming alive in Christ. Big George was converted and “born again.” He understood that he was a “new man.” He was not a better George, but rather a new George.

So what is a “new person” to do? They put off the old self and put on the new self.

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”
Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)

The new person rids themselves of old things and clothes themselves with new things.

“You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ... Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”
Colossians 3:7-8,12 (NIV)

Questions for Discussion:

What major changes did you make after you surrendered your life to Christ?

What changes is God now calling you to possibly make as you continue to grow as a new person?

MENTORING OTHERS

Big George Foreman didn't know about boxing until he met Doc Broadus. Doc saw potential in George and became his teacher, trainer, and mentor. Doc shared his experience and expertise with George. This is the definition of the ministry of mentoring.

The Scriptures are filled with mentoring relationships.

- Jethro mentored Moses
- Moses mentored Joshua
- David mentored Solomon
- Elijah mentored Elisha
- Jesus mentored the Twelve
- Paul mentored Timothy and Titus
- Elizabeth mentored Mary
- Naomi mentored Ruth

When George came to faith in Christ, he needed a new mentor, because as he told Doc, he was trading in one uniform for another. His pastor became his mentor and began to teach him to follow Jesus and how to share his faith. Like Doc had done in the ring, the pastor challenged George to step into public ministry and identify with Jesus. He was exhorting and encouraging and charging George to serve the Lord.

“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.”

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

Questions for Discussion:

Who are the Christian mentors in my life that have impacted me?

Who are the mentors in my work life or my home life that have helped and encouraged me?

What mentors are currently in my life and in what ways do they influence me?

How can I live my life in the best way possible to become a mentor in someone else's life?