



A Study Guide for Youth Pastors

What is a Fluffy?

A Fluffy is a cute and fuzzy alien from outer space. Although it was discovered by astronauts on a mission to Mars, its true origin is unknown. Fluffy appeared on the Martian surface after an asteroid crashed on the red planet, causing organic life to spring up everywhere. It may well be from beyond our galaxy.

Although Fluffy appears as cute and harmless as a little hamster, with a cute squeaky noise, it is exceedingly dangerous. They reproduce rapidly and have an insatiable appetite for human flesh. No known photographs or video exist of Fluffy. Few humans have ever seen one and lived to tell the tale.

Origins of Fluffy

The idea for Fluffy was initially inspired by a book called *Monsters from the Id*, an examination of the horror genre that made a link between the rise of horror and the Enlightenment era. Two of the hallmarks of the Enlightenment were a pulling away from traditional moral values, particularly the Bible, and sexual liberation. Yet despite all attempts to free themselves from God's law, advocates of the Enlightenment and its looser sense of morality could not escape the conviction of sin that still dwelt within the heart.

Take the case of Mary Shelley, the daughter of Enlightenment philosophers who, as a teenager, began an affair with renowned poet Percy Bysshe Shelley while he was still married to his first wife. Mary and Percy would eventually marry after the death of Percy's son and the suicide of his first wife. Mary herself would have a miscarriage early in their marriage. This incident had a deep impact on the young woman, leading to a series of horrifying nightmares - dreams that would inspire the novel *Frankenstein*.

The author of *Monsters from the Id* contends that *Frankenstein's* creature, and all the other monsters that have followed, are not in fact evil. Rather,

they are the faceless executioner carrying out the death sentence pronounced on mankind. As Paul put it in Romans 3:23, "The wages of sin is death." The author traces the path of the monster from Europe to America, from Dracula to the rise of horror films in the 1950's and even today. Even Kevin Williamson acknowledged a link between sin and death in horror films when he wrote the rules for surviving a horror movie in his screenplay for *Scream*: if you have sex in a horror movie, you will die.

Creating Fluffy

Fluffy was the second script I created, directly inspired by *Monsters from the Id*. The first was a more ambitious, big-budget affair that began life as a stage play called simply, *The Monster*. Fluffy was designed to be shorter, simpler, and easier to make. I wrote the original script in 2002, but was not able to shoot the film until 2004. It was two years later I had the means and resources to finish the film, releasing it in 2007 on the web and the DVD *Holy Shorts*. My goal was to create a short film that would make people laugh, yet be useful as a tool for youth leaders to begin a discussion about the consequences of sin and/or the horror genre.

F2: *Fluffy Strikes Back* was written, filmed, and completed in a matter of months, due in part to the encouragement by some long time Fluffy fans and the discovery of some new talent that could improve on the original short. The original goal remained the same, with two additional goals: raise the body count, and raise the campy/cheesy factor. Thanks to a stroke of good fortune, we were also able to raise the production values significantly.

The door is open for a Fluffy 3, and even a Fluffy feature. But for now, only two there are: an original, and a sequel.

Themes in Fluffy

1. No Sin Is Harmless. Fluffy lures victim after victim to their deaths by the same mode of operation: its cute look and innocent appearance. Everyone who encounters Fluffy is intrigued and curious, and wants to take a closer look. For most, it is the last look they will ever take.

How many of us have fallen prey to sin because we deceived ourselves, believing that no harm could come of it? Little white lies, brief glimpses of photos on the Internet, a stolen pack of gum... it may look simple and harmless. It may not affect anyone around us immediately. But no sin is without consequences, external or internal.

2. Sin Spreads Like a Disease. In both movies, someone makes the mistake of bringing Fluffy into their house. In both cases, one little Fluffy soon becomes a multitude that can no longer be hidden or contained.

That one tiny sin we conceal in our homes will not stay hidden forever. It will multiply, grow, and spread. One sin leads to another. Then to another. Then on to bigger sin. Left unchecked, it will consume us.

3. Sexual Sin is Never Private. This theme plays out particularly in the first Fluffy. Astronaut Dex Tucker is a rule breaker, in his work and his marriage. His attempt to have an affair with Trish, and then Audrey, leads to the destruction of his family, his lover, and eventually his own life.

Adultery is never a private sin. Whether its simple lust, pornography, or an affair, the sin destroys the mind, then the relationships around you. How many divorces, how many wrecked homes, how many ruined lives will it take before we realize that sex outside God's plan is a deadly and dangerous sin?

4. Sin Must Be Annihilated. There is no way for Fluffy and mankind to co-exist in peace. In the end, one must destroy the other completely. It is not enough to almost eradicate Fluffy from the Earth. Fluffy will come back to kill again.

Christ cannot dwell where sin exists. If we truly want to be his disciples, we must eliminate all temptations, all traces of sin from our lives. We must flee sexual immorality. We must flee sin of any kind. We must guard ourselves, our homes, and our loved ones. It only takes one sin, one weak spot, to make us vulnerable to attack.

Suggested Discussion Questions

There's plenty of material and symbolism in Fluffy and F2 to make your own questions. But if you're really stumped, here are some questions to get you started.

Both Movies

1. Why are people drawn to watch horror films?
2. Why do you think many Christians are less drawn to horror?
3. Is there a connection between the subconscious themes of sin and

death and the attraction/repulsion regarding horror?

4. What other movies do you see this allegory play out?

5. What parallels do you see between Fluffy and sin in our own lives?

6. What does Fluffy have to say about the nature of "little" sins?

7. How do little sins open the door for bigger sins?

8. Dex's actions with Fluffy cause harm to his lover, his family, and ultimately his community. Is this spiderweb effect true of sin as well?

9. How can you use horror films to point someone to Christ?

Fluffy

1. How does Dex's sin manifest itself in the story?

2. Is there a connection between Dex's adultery and his willingness to break the rules on the mission to Mars?

3. At what point does Dex's sin doom his family?

4. Could the Fluffy threat have ever been contained? How?

5. What hope is there for all mankind now that Fluffy has been released in the wild?

F2: Fluffy Strikes Back

1. What actions lead to the deaths of each character in the story?

2. Could any of these deaths have been avoided? How?

3. What is Mike's motivation for bringing Fluffy home and caring for it?

4. In the end, Mike is remorseful for his actions. Do you think he was truly innocent in knowing that his actions would cause such harm?

Suggested Scripture for Discussion

Websites

Fluffy: www.fluffythemovie.com

Righteous Insanity Home Page: www.righteousinsanity.com

John Cospers Home Page: www.johncosper.com