

VIDEVOS

14 Short Films / 14 Bible Studies
By John Cospers

www.righteousinsanity.com/videvos

INTRODUCTION

As a kid, I always dreamed of making movies, so you can imagine my delight when, around the year 2000, the technology finally fell into the hands of ordinary guys like me to make and edit movies with a camera and a Mac computer. Empowered by technology and the rise of indy film, I set out to do what I always dreamed.

For more than a decade, Righteous Insanity produced over 100 short films, each one with a message or some sort of Biblical tie in. Some of the shorts came out great. Others... not so great. They were no budget productions, and that no budget aspect shines through in every frame. But they were made with love, and despite the lack of craft and time put into them - some of them turned out to be pretty funny.

While Righteous Insanity is no longer in the film business, I decided to preserve some of the best of the best and present them in this format. The book you now see in your hands or on your screen features a short devotional tied to twelve of my favorites. You may use these as written. You can take what's heard and expand on them. Or you can toss them out and write your own lesson. It's completely up to you.

My hope is that these shorts, crazy as they are, can be the starting point for growing a deeper faith in your youth, college group, or whomever you happen to be working with. Enjoy the films, but don't stop with the videos. Open the Bible, go deeper, and ask God to use them as a vehicle for building up Christians who will change the world one person at a time.

All of the videos in this series are posted on YouTube and/or Vimeo. You can find links to all 14 videos at:

www.righteousinsanity.com/videos

And if you want to get in touch, email me at john@righteousinsanity.com

NO MORE RULES

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiDmYFDiBpg>

The world says that the rules we live by are man made. We no longer have to live by the standards of the Bible because every man is entitled to follow their own path. But common sense will tell you that there are some things that are black and white, right or wrong, no matter what the world says.

We were made by God, who teaches us right and wrong through his Word, the Bible. If we obey that word, we will not only live in a way that honors God but is a blessing to others.

And yes, we will probably also live LONGER.

Read Exodus 20

How many of these rules seem unreasonable to the world today?

The first four commandments deal with how we treat God. How well do you think most believers do in obeying these commands?

The last six commandments are all about how we treat others. What would the world look like if everyone obeyed commandments 5-10?

What would you say to someone who believes they are the ultimate judge of right and wrong?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for showing us the way to live. Make us obedient so we can light the way for others to follow.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

NEVER CHEAT ON A SUPER HERO

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRmUvLZQ44M>

Stacy was neither hot nor cold. She was playing with the hearts of both Freezy Boy and Heatstroke. When the two heroes learned she was cheating on them, they lost all desire to save her.

The Lord says he has no time for Christians who are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold. He'd rather we be completely indifferent than half-hearted in our faith. God is challenging us to go all in, to be on fire for the Lord so that he can use us to reach a lost world.

Read Revelation 3:14-22

Are there any drinks you can think of that taste good lukewarm?

Why is it better to be "cold" than "lukewarm"?

What do you think hold people back from developing a faith that is "hot"?

A warm beverage can be the perfect solution on a cold day? What are some ways we can heat up our faith and offer that faith to others?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for not being all in with our faith. Help us to catch fire, and make us a light that will draw others to Jesus.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

BEETHOVEN

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2ZPdVXMKR8>

There's a difference between knowing about God and knowing God. You can read every book on the subject of Jesus, but until you meet him in a personal relationship you will never know just what a difference he can make in your life.

Read John 4:1-26, 39-42

How much did this woman appear to know about the Messiah?

How did meeting Jesus change her?

How has Jesus changed your life?

What are some ways we can get to know Jesus better?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Don't let us settle for knowing about you. Come into our hearts, dwell with us, so we can know you as our Savior and friend.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES OF THE BIBLE

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pK6pUd8tWDc>

Anyone who thinks the Bible is just a boring book of do's and don't's has never read the Bible. The Bible is a story book, filled with some of the most interesting characters and bizarre stories ever written down. Each story forms part of the whole picture that tells us who we are, who God is, and what God has done for us. From Genesis to revelation, the women and men of the Bible have much to teach us about life and God.

For this Bible study, have each person look up the story of someone shown in the video and recap the story for the group. Here are the scripture references for a few:

Sarah - Genesis 18:1-15

Lot's Wife - Genesis 19

Leah and Rachel - Genesis 29

Jael - Judges 4

Delilah - Judges 16

Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 11

Ruth - The Book of Ruth

What would you say to someone who thinks the Bible has no relevance to our lives today?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Help us all to get into a daily habit of reading your Word, and teach us how we should live through the men and women whose stories are in the Bible.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

TURN THE PAGE

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awP9EaKv-HQ>

Has it ever even occurred to you that God has given you special gifts for use in his kingdom? Take a look around our church, and you'll see many different kinds of people, each fulfilling a special role. Some teach. Some work with their hands. Some lead. Some serve. Just like a human body, every person has a role to play, and none are insignificant.

God has given you special gifts as well. When you discover your gifts, don't hesitate to find a place where you can begin serving God.

Read 1 Corinthians 12

What are some "body parts" that you can identify in our church? Do any match up to the list Paul has given us?

What talents have you discovered in yourself?

Look around the group. Have you spotted any hidden talents in your peers?

Where are some places we can use the gifts we've already discovered for Christ?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Show us the gifts you have placed within us, and help us find our place in the body of Christ.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

WHAT'S HIS NAME?

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/73017579>

In the immortal words of Elwood Blues, "There are some things that make us all the same. You, me, them, everybody, everybody." We don't often think about people from different walks of life going through the same struggles we do, much less losing sleep over the name of a Muppet. But all of us were created in God's image. Male and female, old and young, every race and every background. God wants us to see others the way he does: as people just like us!

Read Acts 10

Why was it important for Peter to learn that the Gentiles needed to hear the gospel?

We don't see the world as Jews and Gentiles, but we all have mental barriers against certain types of people. Who are some of the people that we don't often think of when we think about sharing Christ?

Why is it so easy for us to judge others and cut ourselves off from them?

What can we do to overcome those barriers and become followers of Christ who love everyone the same?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us when we fail to see other people the way you do. Teach us to see everyone as your children, and teach us to love everyone the way Jesus would.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

FLIRT MEDICINE

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNkISjMb7c8>

When you go on a date, you want to seem more interesting. You want to seem fun. You want to attract the attention of the other person and keep it. We do the same thing on job interviews, at sports tryouts, and auditions. We put on our best face so that other people will like us and want us.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to make a good impression, but God doesn't want us to pretend we are something we are not. Lying about who you are can lead to unhappy relationships, unhappy job situations, and other situations that could have been avoided if we'd only been honest. God made us all unique, and he wants us to be true to ourselves.

READ Jeremiah 1

What does God tell Jeremiah, and why does he want Jeremiah to know these things?

What sort of dishonest things have you done to make a good impression on others?

Why is it hard sometimes to accept who we are? Why do we long to be something we are not?

What are some things God has given you that make you truly unique?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the talents, the gifts, and the quirks that make us special. Teach us to see ourselves the way you do, and help us to be honest about who we are.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

HOW TO BLOW YOUR WITNESS

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gt8ew5HBldU>

It's much easier to ruin your witness than it is to establish your witness. Being a living witness for Christ means living every day for Jesus. It means turning a deaf ear to gossip, watching what we say, averting our eyes from trouble, controlling our emotions, and avoiding temptation. It's an impossible task because we are all sinners, and we all stumble every day. But with God's help, we can learn day by day to be a people who honor God by the way we live and by the way we treat others.

READ Mark 14:27-31, 66-72

How do you think Peter felt after he denied Jesus?

What are some ways Christians ruin their witness?

We are all going to mess up, and we are all going to mess up in front of others. How can we set things right after we've stumbled?

What would you say to someone who says all Christians are hypocrites? Why should they believe in Jesus when all of his followers are so flawed and imperfect?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Help us to remember that the eyes of others are always on us. Teach us to be loving, to be kind, and to treat others well. Teach us to be humble and set things right when we fall.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

THE FANTASY BIBLE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ULV6p44ZtA>

Can being a Christian be fun? Is it possible to learn about God and have a good time doing it? You may not really be able to play fantasy football with Biblical characters, but that doesn't mean being a Christian has to be boring.

Many people look at Christians as people with no sense of fun. They think church is boring, and all they ever hear from us is when we're protesting something we don't like. God wants us to enjoy life, and he can use our enjoyment to draw others to Christ. It's time we stop looking at the Christian life as a chore and embrace it as the joyful life it's supposed to be.

Read Psalm 150

What sort of picture does David give us of what it's like to be a Christian?

What reasons to be joyful and happy do you have right now? What blessings has God given you?

God wants us to be serious students of the Bible, but any teacher will tell you that an element of fun can aid in learning. Short of creating our own fantasy Bible football league, how can we make learning about God fun?

What can we do to share our faith with others and show them that following Christ is anything but boring?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for all the reasons you've given us to celebrate. Help us to share our joy and let that joy spread to our fellow believers and our friends who need Jesus.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

CAPTAIN CATHARSIS

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVfWIGZNxXQ>

It's never easy to recover from a broken heart. Whether it's a lost relationship, a broken heart, a missed opportunity, or the loss of a loved one, we all go through hard times. We want to cry. We want to yell at someone. We want our pain to go away.

God sent his son Jesus to die for us so we could have a personal relationship with him. That means we can have forgiveness and eternal life, but it also means we have a comforter by our side when we need him. When tragedy strikes, no one knows your pain better than Jesus. No one is more reliable than the one who knows you best.

Read John 11:1-44

When Lazarus died, who was the one person his sisters wanted to see most?

Why do you think the gospel writer made a point to tell us that Jesus wept?

Has God helped you through a hard time in your life? How do you know God was there when you needed him?

What can we do to give comfort to others who are going through a tough time?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus so that we could have a personal relationship with you. Be near us when our hearts are broken, and help us to share your love with others in sad times.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

BOBBY BLADE: ROCK STAR MENTOR

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAOze3bBi6U>

Note: The Bobby Blade video contains adult themes and implied, bleeped profanity. Use your best discretion in deciding if this is a video that can be used in your ministry.

We have a certain standard we expect of rock stars. We expect them to get trashed, to wreck hotel rooms, to break the law, and to use and abuse other people. When we see rock stars and other celebrities get into trouble, we sometimes shake our heads but we usually just laugh. Sad, but true.

The world will judge you not based on the words you speak but your actions. As Christians, we are called to live by a different standard. God wants people to see Him in our actions. He wants us to bear fruit that will lead others to Jesus.

Read Galatians 5:22-23

If you had to make a list of fruit that would personify worldly living, what would be on that list?

How many of the Fruits of the Spirit do you honestly see in your life? How many of the worldly fruits do you see?

If people lived by the fruits of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control - how might the world be different?

What can we do to begin putting the Fruit of the Spirit in action in our lives?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Prune away the offensive parts in our hearts. Plant the Fruit of the Spirit within us, and let the world see your love by our actions.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

DELETED SCENES OF THE BIBLE

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wyl2uLktsZg>

First of all, yes, this story actually does appear in the Bible. Not the uncle's story specifically, but people did rise from the dead.

What's sad about this story is that there are people who, no matter what evidence is put in front of them, refuse to believe that Jesus is the Christ. They are so ingrained by a worldview that says there is no God, they simply won't listen.

It's not easy dealing with people who don't believe in God, but if we are truly his disciples, we will never give up hope. We will pray for them, and we will always live in a way that glorifies God.

Read Isaiah 6:9-10

Are there people you know who don't believe in God? What reasons do they have for not believing in God?

How do they treat you when they learn that you love God, and how does it make you feel?

It can be frustrating, dealing with an unbeliever, especially if they are hostile to our faith. How can we avoid the temptation to strike back, write them off, or talk badly about them?

How should we pray for those who do not believe in Jesus?

PRAYER

Dear God,

We know you love everyone, including those who do not believe. Make us a light in this world, and use us to show everyone that you are real.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

DEVIL GIRL OF VENUS

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmTRa8TKV0A>

Talk about a backfire! The boys thought they knew everything. They thought that what was true in movies would work in real life. Their wisdom didn't stop a single alien. It only got their friend - and probably the both of them - killed.

The world has a solution for every problem. So does God. Usually, the world's solution and God's solution are two different things. If we really want to solve the problems that ail our world, we need to realize that worldly wisdom is flawed. God us our Creator, and he alone has the answers to cure what ails us.

Read Proverbs 16:25

For this discussion choose two or three issues and write them on a board or a piece of paper. Make two columns beneath each issue. In one column, write down the world's solution. In the other, write God's solution.

How does God's wisdom differ from that of the world?

What can we do to help implement God's solution to one of these problems this week?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Open our eyes and ears so we can learn from you. Give us your wisdom so we can share it and make a difference in our world.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

THE UBERGEEK BIBLE

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeJ9eZySajE>

As silly as the idea of a "geek" Bible sounds, there's Biblical basis for us. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit enabled the believers to speak in the languages of the world, allowing people to hear the good news of Jesus in their own language. The Gutenberg (SP) Bible did the same for the English speaking world, allowing the gospel to spread to those who could read it for the first time.

While there's really no need for a Bible in geek language, we need to learn how to share the gospel with people where they are. We need to meet their needs first. We need to meet them where they are. Then we can lead them to the cross.

Read Acts 2:1-41

How did the Holy Spirit enable the gospel to spread so quickly?

Often times, before we can share the gospel, we need to serve others and meet their basic needs. Why is it important to meet someone's physical needs before we can minister to the spiritual needs?

Many people are turned off by the inside terms and phrases Christians use. What are some "Christian-y" words and sayings we should eliminate?

Can you think of some creative ways you can introduce the gospel to others? Can you use the themes from a song, a movie, or a book to share about Jesus?

What other creative openings can you find to share the gospel?

PRAYER

Dear God,

Use us to share Jesus with the world. Teach us how to meet people where they are and lead them to the Lord.

In Jesus' name,
Amen