READY TO USE MOVIE

# The Batman (12A)

Watch the whole film together or concentrate on the clip from 02:35:38 to 02:40:50.

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## Synopsis

Two years of stalking the streets as the Batman (Pattinson), striking fear into the hearts of criminals, has led Bruce Wayne deep into the shadows of Gotham City. With only a few trusted allies, Batman has established himself as the sole embodiment of vengeance among his fellow citizens. When a killer targets Gotham’s elite, a trail of cryptic clues sends Bruce / Batman on an investigation into the underworld. There he encounters such characters as Catwoman, the Penguin, and the Riddler. As the scale of the Riddler’s plans becomes clear, Batman must forge new relationships, unmask the culprit and bring justice to the abuse of power and corruption that has long plagued Gotham City.

This Batman sees a newer, younger version of Bruce Wayne who is still learning his role and place in society and one that places a great emphasis on vengeance and striking fear into the hearts of everyone in Gotham. Bruce has lost himself a little to the role of Batman, spending more time in the suit than out of it. *The Batman* charts his progression as a hero and a person as he deals with the Riddler, a villain who believes that he fights for the very same reason as Batman does.

## The movie

This session is aimed at an older group aged over twelve, with that in mind, chat through the following questions to help settle them into the discussion format:

* Why is Batman such a popular superhero?
* Batman is known for having an extensive rogue gallery of villains. Who is Batman’s best villain and why?
* Bruce Wayne is a billionaire. Wouldn’t giving all his money to charity be a better way to save Gotham than becoming a vigilante?

The clip that this session focuses on takes place at the climax of the film. After a battle with the Riddler’s followers, catastrophe has hit Gotham city with various sea walls being hit by explosions and Gotham is facing a terrible flood. With citizens gathering at Gotham stadium, they find themselves trapped by the oncoming waters. Having previously aimed to fight in the shadows, Batman finds himself making the choice to become the hero of the people. After spending all of his time as Batman aiming to create fear, Batman now becomes a symbol that brings others hope.

Having watched the clip, chat through these questions:

* What is the realisation that Batman makes during this clip? How might that impact his future vigilante efforts?
* Batman has a strict ‘no guns’ and ‘no killing’ rule. Why do you think he might impose those restrictions on himself?
* Gotham civilians seem to fear Batman in this clip, something he wanted at the beginning of the film. Is it better to be loved or feared if you want to be an effective leader?
* Batman states that ‘vengeance won’t change the past’. Do you agree?

## The Bible

Over the years, the Batman films have explored many themes that can link with different biblical stories or characters, and this cinematic incarnation is no different. Read Ephesians 6:10-20 together as a group and chat through the following questions:

* What is the purpose of the armour in this passage?
* Is there a part of the armour mentioned that you would particularly like to have?
* Verse 12 mentions rulers and authorities – should Christians be standing up to people like them?
* How is prayer important in this passage? What role does it play?

*The Batman* is available to purchase on Amazon Prime.

**TOM WADE**

is head of humanities at Haileybury School.