

A movie poster for the film 'Chasing Mavericks'. The background is a high-contrast, grainy image of two men, Gerard Butler and Jonny Lee Miller, standing in front of a rocky coastline. The poster features a large, stylized graphic of a surfboard in the center, with a red-to-orange gradient. The title 'CHASING MAVERICKS' is written in large, bold, yellow letters across the middle. Below the title, the tagline 'LEGENDS START SOMEWHERE' is written in white. At the bottom, it says 'BASED ON A TRUE STORY' in black. The overall color palette is dominated by red, orange, yellow, and black, with a blueish tint in the background.

GERARD BUTLER

**CHASING
MAVERICKS**

**LEGENDS START
SOMEWHERE**

**BASED ON
A TRUE STORY**

FAITH DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE FILM

C*hasing Mavericks* is the inspirational true story of real-life surfing phenomenon Jay Moriarity (played by newcomer Jonny Weston). When 15 year-old Jay discovers that the mythic Mavericks surf break—one of the biggest waves on Earth—is not only real but exists just miles from his Santa Cruz home, he enlists the help of local legend Frosty Hesson (played by Gerard Butler) to train him to survive it.

As Jay and Frosty embark on their quest to accomplish the impossible, they form a unique friendship that transforms both their lives; and their quest to tame Mavericks becomes about far more than surfing. *Chasing Mavericks* was made with the help of some of the biggest names in the surfing world, and features some of the most mind-blowing real wave footage ever captured on film.



ABOUT THE FAITH DISCUSSION GUIDE

Chasing Mavericks provides audiences an opportunity to reflect on living a meaningful life. Contemplating what Frosty, a character in the film calls the “Four Pillars of a solid human foundation,” offers a rich source of discussion.

Using this Guide after viewing the film can help focus and direct discussions, and assist with looking more closely at the intersection of faith and action, and how people are guided in making meaning of their experiences.

The lessons are supplemented with movie clips you have either received with an accompanying DVD or downloaded in Quick Time at **EdifyFilms.com/mavericks**. These clips were specifically selected to help you set the tone and furnish the context for your discussion. There are also suggested passages from Scripture, tied to scenes from Chasing Mavericks. These passages are accompanied by discussion questions for use in discussion groups.



DISCUSSION

Introduce the discussion of *Chasing Mavericks* by saying something such as, “We’re going to talk about several topics that relate to principles in the film that can make a difference in how we approach life—and our goals—from God’s perspective. We have scenes from the film to watch, analyze and see what we can learn.” Next, give a brief overview of the film and then play the clip you have selected. Once the film clip plays, open the floor for discussion using the questions and scriptures provided in the guide—or use some of your own. To finish, close each session by providing time for people to write about what they feel is the “Lesson to Learn,” in the space provided at the end of each topic section.

Note: It is not necessary to undertake all of the topics in one session. Also, since some in your group have not seen the film, provide them with the context of the clip before watching it. This information can be found in the italicized text that precedes the questions and scripture references for that particular clip and topic.





***Note:** After the menu appears, you may decide to play the trailer first by pressing “trailer”. Then press “Play Guide.” and the DVD will automatically play an introductory scene from the film that explains the four pillars of a solid human foundation. From this point on, you will select each pillar in succession.*

**“It’s about more than just surfing.
It’s about choices you make in life.”**
—Frosty Hesson



PHYSICAL PILLAR

Play Pillar One: Getting his first taste of training for Mavericks, teenager Jay Moriarity paddles out into the bay with mentor and local surfing legend Frosty Hesson. There Jay learns about the four pillars of a human foundation. Immediately after, the lesson about the first pillar—physical—begins.



Questions:

1. Jay dreams of riding the gigantic Mavericks break someday, a feat only a few “big wave” surfers attempt because of the hazards. But when Frosty tells Jay he needs to physically train by paddling his surfboard the distance of Monterey Bay, what is his reaction? Why do you think there is a “disconnect” between what it takes to surf Mavericks and what it will take to paddle a surfboard the distance of the bay?
2. Think of a sport or training you have been involved in, and discuss what you thought it would take as you first began that training, and then what you came to know about it once you had been doing it awhile. What’s the difference between what you first thought and what you now know? Why?
3. “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” —*Jeremiah 29:11*. Is there a difference between our plans and what God plans for us? Why? How do we know?

MENTAL PILLAR

Play Pillar Two: *When experienced surfer Frosty watches newcomer Jay make his first attempt to paddle out to Mavericks, it is a reality check for the teen. It is then that Frosty explains the second pillar—Mental—that he will need if he hopes to successfully surf Mavericks.*



Questions:

1. Jay's first attempt at paddling out to Mavericks ends in failure. What does Frosty tell Jay to do before trying to surf the big waves? What happens on his second try, and why?
2. *"I went past the field of a sluggard, past the vineyard of someone who has no sense; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man."* --Proverbs 24: 30-34

How does this passage from Scripture apply to Jay's learning the right path through treacherous waters?

3. Proverbs is a book in the Bible that talks a lot about wisdom. Read *Proverbs 3:1-6* and then explain the benefits when we study and remember to use wisdom.



EMOTIONAL PILLAR

Play Pillar Three: Working on holding their breath, Frosty takes Jay snorkeling to the ocean floor where they can test their limits. But an untimely encounter with a shark blocks their way to the surface. This situation ushers in the third pillar—emotional.



Questions:

1. Both Frosty and Jay are surprised by the shark that blocks their way to resurfacing; an immediate problem for Jay. Explain the difference between fear and panic.
2. Read *Philippians 4:6-7*, *1 Peter 5:7*. Reflect on what these verses from Scripture mean to you, and your understanding of Pillar Three in the film.
3. When Jay panicked underwater, Frosty sees and comes to his aid. Compare this situation with the way God watches over us after reading *Luke 12:6-7; 25-26*.



SPIRITUAL PILLAR

Play Pillar Four: Teen surfer Jay and his buddy, Blonde, are longtime friends who skateboard and ride the waves together. In this scene, the two are skateboarding with other high school kids who invite them to a late night party. The choice Jay makes demonstrates another pillar of the human foundation—spiritual.



Questions:

1. When Jay goes skateboarding with friends, he is invited to party on a school night. What do you think his worry is about hanging out later? Have you ever been in a situation that is similar to Jay's? Describe and explain your feelings. What and when is wisdom? Describe a wise moment in the movie. On whose part? Why? Read *Proverbs 15:21*, *Psalms 119:1-9, 66, 101-106* and *Ecclesiastes 11:9*.
2. Read *Philippians 4:13*, *Isaiah 40:29-31; 41:10-16* (In *Isaiah* replace “you” with your name.) and *Romans 8:26-28*. What do these verses say that help you and strengthen your faith?



