



# **SUPERMAN RETURNS:**

## **Why the World Needs a Savior**

### **Reminders:**

- If you are going to use a movie clip, ALWAYS PREVIEW IT! No exceptions! You are responsible for what you show your group! Our writers will always try to provide “clean clips” and warn you of nearby questionable words or content, but all art forms are subjective. Only you can determine what to show your group. Number one rule: watch it first.
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### **Goal:**

- To understand that the world needed a savior and that savior came in the form of Jesus Christ.

### **Setting the Stage:**



Use tape to form a maze on the floor. Divide everyone in the group into pairs. Have one partner place a blindfold on and stand at the entrance of the maze. Have the other partner stand at the end of the maze. Have the blindfolded partner start through the maze and allow his or her friend to guide them vocally to the finish. After they have completed this have the blindfolded partner return to the start of the maze and try to go through again without the voice of their friend. When they feel they have come to the finish of the maze have them remove their blindfold to show them just how lost they had become without the assistance of their partner. Repeat this with every pair in the group. This should be a fun way to introduce the idea of the need for a savior and how lost one can become when attempting to go it alone.

## Superman Returns Overview:

When astronomers discovered the distant remains of Superman's home world, Krypton, he disappeared, leaving Metropolis and Lois Lane behind without a goodbye. Upon returning to Metropolis five years later, Superman faces new challenges as he must answer for his absence, come to grips with a Lois Lane who has moved on with her life, and once again try to foil the evil plans of his archrival, Lex Luthor.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *Superman Returns* is rated "PG-13" for "some intense action violence." Leaders should preview the clips prior to showing them to the group. Also, it would be helpful if the leader has seen the entire movie.

## Movie Clip:



“Tell and Show”

**DVD Time:** Start the clip halfway through chapter 19 (time: 1:09:10) as Lois walks on the rooftop. End the clip halfway through chapter 20 (time: 1:14:17) after Superman says, “I’ll take you back now.” (Please note that this clip includes a reference to smoking at the beginning of the scene as Lois tries to light a cigarette. There is also suggestive tenderness, not including any outright affection, between Lois and Superman. Use your discretion in choosing what to show.)

### ***Introduction to this Clip***

During Superman’s absence, Lois Lane wrote a newspaper editorial called, “Why the World Doesn’t Need Superman.” This article has recently won her the Pulitzer Prize. In this clip, Superman speaks with Lois for the first time since returning to Metropolis and specifically asks her why she wrote the editorial.

### ***Key Comments and Principles from Clip***

Lois’s statement, “The World doesn’t need a savior...and neither do I,” is contradicted by Superman’s statement, “You wrote that the world doesn’t need a savior; but everyday I hear people crying for one.” Superman hears what Lois cannot. He knows what she refuses to admit. In the same way, God knows what people refuse to admit: each one of us needs a Savior.

## **What Did You See?**

After viewing the clip, ask the group these questions:

- What spiritual elements did you see?
- Which words, phrases, or images were the most powerful to you? Why?



- What is Lois's attitude like towards Superman at the beginning of this clip? Why?
- Why do you think Lois feels the world doesn't need a savior?
- What does Superman want Lois to understand about the world and why it does or doesn't need a savior?

## Scripture:

### Romans 3:21–31

Paul states that all people are sinners and Christ has died for their sins. In this passage, Paul is writing to the Christian community in Rome about the reality of human rebellion and sin in light of Christ's victory on the cross. The hard reality of what Paul is wrestling with in these verses is simply that humans are powerless to save themselves; they need a Savior. Paul wants his readers to understand that every single person has sinned and the penalty of sin is death. But Christ paid that penalty in full on the cross. Essentially, Christ's death has brought new life to those who put their faith in Him.

## What Did You Read?

After reading the Scripture for today, ask the following questions:

- What are the key elements in this Scripture?
- Who does Paul say has fallen short of God's glorious standard for humans?
- According to Paul, how are we made right in God's sight?
- Does Paul think we can boast about making ourselves acceptable to God? Why or why not?



- So does Paul think we can live however we want as long as we have faith? (*No. Our behavior changes as a result of our faith. “Only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law” (verse 31). Christ has set us free to live a new life in Him.*)

## What Does It All Mean?

Tie the movie clip and Scripture together by asking the following questions:

- In what ways is Superman a type of “savior”?
- What is the main difference between Superman and Jesus? (*Superman cannot save everyone whereas Jesus gave His life to save everyone. Superman fights the forces of evil whereas Jesus has defeated the forces of evil, sin, and death. Superman’s powers are limited by time and space whereas Jesus is limited by nothing.*)
- Who is the real Savior: Superman or Jesus? (*Jesus. Not only has He died for the sins of humanity, He has defeated evil and death. He has promised that we will share in His heavenly inheritance.*)

## Creative Activity:

Take a white cloth and stain it ahead of time with various substances (grape juice, food coloring, engine oil, etc.). Explain that the dirty cloth represents our life. Write the word “sin” on the cloth in permanent black marker. At the beginning of the session, invite students to try and wash the stains out in a bucket of water. Be sure to provide soap and scrub brushes for them to use. Encourage everyone to try and wash out the stains. Explain that no matter how hard we try, we cannot wash away the stains of our sins. Have another



clean white cloth on hand to illustrate that when God forgives our sins, He ultimately makes us brand new. We are made a new creation only through Christ.

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