



**The Bible is full of stories and many of us have been hearing them in and out of church since we were in diapers. At a certain point we stop listening and just recite what we know from memory. The unfortunate part about this is that God's word has layer upon layer of meaning and truth and we do ourselves a disservice when we just scratch the surface. And that's what the CYFF is all about: taking the text and going deeper to get a better understanding and then retelling it in our own words. The process we're after is called defamiliarization and the idea is to make the familiar unfamiliar so the brain and heart can re-engage with God's Word.**

So, why a film festival? Because there's just too much fun to be had here by just one youth group! Furthermore, if we're serious about living out the Great Commission, we need to be about the business of creatively communicating the gospel message. So, when we get together to do this we can mutually inspire, encourage, and challenge each other.

Along those lines, don't worry if you don't have any video cameras or budding Spielbergs in your youth group. We'll hook you up with some folks who can guide you along or loan equipment. So, whatever experience you have or your kids have, you can definitely participate! Also, you don't have to worry about being outshined or how to "beat" the other churches. The idea isn't for this to be a competition, but a learning experience for all. However, we will be recognizing each film with an award all their own as well as a few special awards which will be decided by a panel of neutral judges.

**If you're interested, here are the next steps:**

- Check out the Facebook page ([facebook.com/charlotteyouthfilmfestival](https://facebook.com/charlotteyouthfilmfestival)) for more information on exactly how this whole film festival works.
- Share this opportunity with your kids in the next few weeks and decide whether or not you want to try it.
- Guide your kids through studying the Beatitudes. Stay tuned to the Facebook page for some ideas.
- We had a venue fall through so we are currently working on a location and date for the actual Festival so stay tuned for that (if you have any suggestions, please let us know!).
- Figure out how many seats you need for the Film Festival and let us know.
- Show up to the Film Festival and enjoy the films!

**We realize that this is going to be an undertaking, but we also think that it will be a tremendously rewarding experience because:**

- Everyone involved will definitely have fun.
- Working on a project like this from start to finish will draw your group together through all the bonding and memories.
- Your kids will gain a better understanding of the Beatitudes and what they look like in their everyday lives.
- Your "artsy" students will get a chance to use their specific unique gifts to glorify God and to edify the body of Christ.
- It's a different and unique way to network with other church youth groups and work for the Kingdom together!
- Who knows, you may see a film (or make a film) that inspires you and that you want to use in your youth ministry!

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