

# THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

## FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. When his first attempt at his dream didn't work out, Barnum listened to the counsel of his daughters to change his approach and focus on featuring attractions that were alive. How can listening to counsel help us with the things we are doing?
2. P.T. Barnum's life was shaped by major catastrophes, such as losing his job and his building being burned down, that led to transition. How can the bad things that happen to us sometimes help us go in a better direction?
3. How were some of the characters in the film trapped by poverty? How were others trapped by being wealthy?
4. Jenny Lind showed surprising motives in traveling with Barnum. What can this teach us about understanding how people sometimes have hidden reasons behind the things they are doing?
5. Barnum had a critic who never had anything good to say about him until the end of the film. What can their relationship teach us about those who have unkind things to say about us?
6. What can this film teach us about self-acceptance?
7. Why were the townspeople so hateful to the circus performers, and how do you think this illustrates the words in 1 John 3:15 that 'whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer'?

8. When P.T. Barnum fell on hard times, it showed who his friends are. What do think difficulties can reveal about your friendships?
9. Why do you think P.T. Barnum chased other people's approval so hard, especially from those who were rich?
10. Barnum paid such special attention to Jenny Lind, but who proved to be a better friend, Jenny or his circus performers? How so?
11. Why did Barnum leave Carlisle in the very end to head up the show?
12. The circus was marketed as "The Greatest Show on Earth". What is being marketed to you and your generation right now as "The Greatest Thing!" List as many things you can think of.
13. What does the Bible say about the world and the things in it (I John 2:17)? Barnum & Bailey came on the scene 100 years ago. Do some googling and find out where the Barnum & Bailey circus is now. Does this surprise you?
14. What do you think is truly important- and lasting- in life?