

Twilight Movie Watching Guide

1. When we first meet Bella, she is leaving her mom and home in Phoenix, embarking on a new phase in her life. What do you think of Bella's independence? Does it represent something we long for as we grow up? Is it something more frightening?
2. Right at the beginning of the movie we get the sense that although Bella's parents clearly love her, she takes on more of a parent role than they do – she describes her mother as “hairbrained”. Charlie hasn't been an active part of her life for years and throughout the movie is shown as a little bit of a pushover. Have you, like Bella, experienced family not living up to certain roles or expectations? Do you have an image of the “perfect” family? Does your family try to put on a perfect face to the world?
3. Though not by her own doing, Bella becomes something of a celebrity at her school on her first day but dislikes the spotlight. Have you ever moved to a new place? How did being the “new student” make you feel? Was there anyone that reached out to you? How do you treat new students in your school or at church?
4. Spend a moment describing Edward. What draws Bella to him?
5. Bella thinks of Edward during her waking hours and dreams about him while she sleeps. Where do you think the line is between an obsession and a normal crush?
6. After her conversation with Jacob in La Push, Bella investigates further into the legends he spoke about and finds some fairly scary descriptions of the “cold ones” – vampires. Why do you think she isn't afraid of Edward and goes with him into the forest alone to confront him with what she knows? If you were her friend, and she confided in you what she was about to do, how would you advise her?
7. What's your reaction to the idea of “vegetarian” vampires? What does it say about what it means to be good?
8. Why does James fixate on Bella as his prey? What emotions does this raise for Bella and the Cullen family?
9. What kind of desires make the Twilight Saga tick? What role does desire play in other stories you love? In your own life?

10. Give some examples of how romance is portrayed in the movie as:
 - a) dangerous
 - b) consuming
 - c) fated
11. Even with no vampires around, how can romance become dangerous in our lives?
12. What would it look like for romance to be about glorifying God?
13. Edward visits Bella in her room and admits to watching her sleep for the last few months. He tells her to hold still to see if he has the restraint to kiss her, and she kisses him back with a fervency that makes him retreat, stating, "I can never lose control with you." They spend the rest of the evening talking, and she falls asleep next to him. What are your reactions to this scene? What is there to admire? What is there to be cautious about?
14. When Bella admits that there is a guy in the equation, her mother, Renee, wants details and asks Bella if she's "being safe." Do you have someone you can talk with honestly about the way "waiting" for sex does or doesn't happen for you and your friends? How can we find ways to wait that don't increase temptation?
15. Describe God's faithful love. How is sexual purity a witness to God's faithfulness?
16. What would your life look like if your love story were *first* about loving God? What unexpected things might God do?
17. At the end of the movie, Bella asks Edward why he chose to save her from James' venom and keep her human instead of letting her become "like him." What are your thoughts about Bella's desire to be turned into a vampire? Do you think Edward was right not to change her? What would she be giving up if she were a vampire?
18. Talk about the feelings you experienced while watching the movie. Excitement? Annoyance? Longing? Cynicism? What events in the story contributed to those feelings?