

THE MOVIE

BATMAN BEGINS

Genre: Action **Length:** 140 minutes **Rating:** PG-13

Quick Plot: Bruce Wayne travels the world seeking to fight injustice, a journey that will ultimately result in his transformation into the Dark Knight.

Why This Movie Is Great for Guys: Justice-dealing superheroes! Bruce Wayne's struggle with fear and his lust for vengeance will prompt men to evaluate how they handle their own fears and to examine the concept of justice.



Note: This movie is rated PG-13 for intense action violence, disturbing images, and certain thematic elements.

FOOD

Ninja's Pocket of Deadly [Good] Chicken
Falcone's Breadsticks
Billionaire Soda
Drinks (water, tea)
Mr. Freeze's Chocolate Cherries



THE FOOD

Before your event, talk to the guys about dividing up the ingredients and supplies. Keep in mind that some items, such as the chicken, cost a lot more than others. Maybe two people could share the cost of the chicken while others each bring a couple of items.



Easy Option Meal

If your group doesn't feel like doing much cooking, pick up a frozen lasagna (try vegetarian or chicken for a change) at the supermarket, some frozen garlic bread, and a bottle of sparkling cider.

You remembered the food—but don't forget napkins, plates, and silverware. Amaze (amuse?) your guests with Batman paper goods from your local discount store, or use paper Japanese-style square plates for a sophisticated ninja vibe.

What you'll need:

Names:

Ninja's Pocket of Deadly [Good] Chicken (serves 8)

- 2 pounds chicken meat _____
- 1 bag frozen stir-fry vegetables _____
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup shredded cabbage (red) _____
- 4 tablespoons soy sauce _____
- 1 tablespoon oyster sauce (optional) _____
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon five-spice powder _____
- 2 tablespoons peanut or vegetable oil _____
- 1 head iceberg lettuce _____

Falcone's Breadsticks (serves 8)

- 1 precooked pizza crust, such as Boboli _____
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons olive oil _____
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder _____
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup grated or shredded Parmesan cheese _____
- 1 jar or tub marinara sauce for dipping _____

Billionaire Soda (serves 8-10)

- 2 liter bottle ginger ale _____
- 1 cup grapefruit juice _____
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup orange juice _____
- 4 tablespoons grenadine or pomegranate juice _____

Drinks (water, tea)



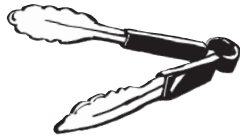
Mr. Freeze's Chocolate Cherries (recipe on page 8)

Ninja's Pocket of Deadly [Good] Chicken

2 pounds chicken meat (white or dark), chopped
1 bag frozen stir-fry vegetables
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup shredded cabbage (red preferred)
4 tablespoons soy sauce

1 tablespoons oyster sauce (optional)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon five-spice powder
2 tablespoons peanut or vegetable oil
1 fresh head iceberg lettuce

Thaw the frozen vegetables overnight in the fridge. Heat the oil in a wok over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and cook, stirring constantly, for about 3 minutes, until chicken is nearly cooked. Add the cabbage and vegetables and stir-fry for one minute. Add the soy sauce, oyster sauce (optional), and five-spice powder and stir-fry for one to two minutes, until veggies are tender and the sauces have combined. Tear off several lettuce leaves together and place one serving of chicken mixture into each group of lettuce leaves, as if it were a bowl. Serves 8.



Falcone's Breadsticks

1 precooked pizza crust, such as Boboli
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon garlic powder

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup grated or shredded Parmesan cheese
1 jar or tub marinara sauce for dipping

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Brush the pizza crust with oil and sprinkle with garlic powder and Parmesan cheese. Partially cut the crust into breadstick shapes by cutting several long lines down it and two across; try not to cut all the way through. Bake for 5-10 minutes or until golden and remove. Separate the sticks and serve with warm marinara. Serves 8.



Billionaire Soda

2 liter bottle ginger ale
1 cup grapefruit juice
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup orange juice

4 tablespoons grenadine or pomegranate juice

Chill ginger ale. Mix and serve in tumblers or champagne glasses. Proclaim toasts that you think Bruce Wayne might give. Serves 8-10.



Mr. Freeze's Chocolate Cherries

$\frac{1}{2}$ bag frozen, pitted Bing cherries $\frac{1}{2}$ bag chocolate chips (about 6 oz)

Melt the chocolate in a microwave safe bowl or in a double boiler, stirring frequently. Dip each cherry in the chocolate, thoroughly coating it, and place on a sheet of wax paper to harden. Let stand for about 10-15 minutes, then eat, or put on a plate and refrigerate for later. Serves 8.



GETTING READY FOR THE SHOW

Making Dinner Happen

You have the home-court advantage here, so make it easy on yourself and have a cooking plan in mind before the event (decide how you'll assign tasks for meal prep). Then, when guests arrive, distribute photocopied recipes and have everyone work together to get the food on the table.

TalkStarters

Use these questions to prompt discussions as you eat together:

- If you could be any comic book hero, which would you be? Why?
- When you were young, who was your hero? In what ways have you tried to emulate that person?
- Tell about a childhood fear. How've you overcome that fear?
- What is currently one of your greatest fears? What do you do to combat this fear?
- Have you ever "taken the law into your own hands," in any sense? What happened?

Batman Trivia Quiz

1. What city does Batman live in?
A. Metropolis
B. New York
C. Gotham
2. What superpowers does Batman have?
3. What crime-fighting team has Batman often been a part of?
4. What is the name of Bruce Wayne's butler?
5. How many of Batman's greatest enemies can you name?
6. Who was the first actor to portray Batman on film?
7. (Extra Credit) Bats account for about what percentage of all mammal species?
A. 1%
B. 15%
C. 20%

Answers

1. C. Gotham
2. None. He's simply extremely fit, incredibly intelligent, and very rich.
3. The Justice League
4. Alfred
5. The Joker, The Penguin, Two-Face, Poison Ivy, Mr. Freeze, Catwoman, The Riddler, Scarecrow, Bane
6. Not Michael Keaton in 1989, or Adam West in 1966, but Lewis Wilson in 1943!
7. C. 20% There are over a 1,000 species of bats worldwide. Of those, most eat only insects, and the rest subsist primarily on fruit and juices. Only three species drink blood, and none fight crime.

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SHOWTIME!

The Pre-Show

Have everyone gather in the area where you'll show the movie. If you've just finished eating, you may want to provide a quick break for people to use the rest room. Take a few moments before you start to raise your glasses of Billionaire Soda and have each person name a toast to one of their heroes. Serve the chocolate cherries and more soda when the movie gets to the part where Bruce boards the airplane to return home.



THE SHOW



Genre: Action

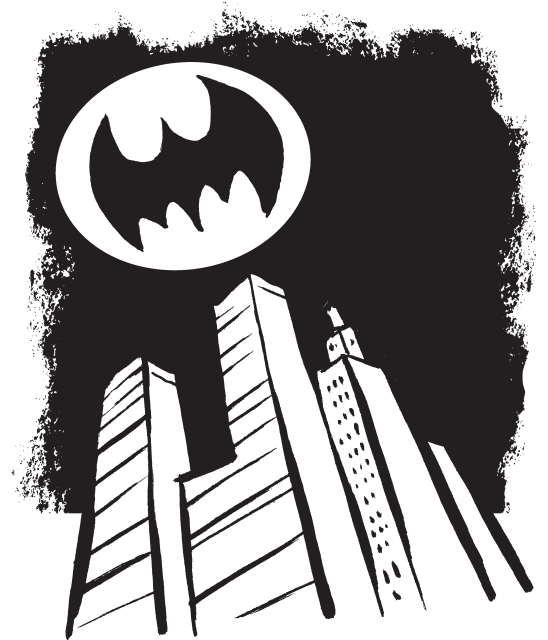
Length: 140 minutes

Rating: PG-13 for intense action violence (shootings, fights) and disturbing images (psychological torture, delusions)

Plot: Bruce Wayne grows up with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth, but despite inherited wealth his life unravels after a tragic event. When his parents are murdered, Bruce loses himself to his fears and his desire for vengeance. He leaves his home city of Gotham—frustrated and unable to cope—and seeks understanding amid the dark hollows of the criminal underworld.

When a society of vigilantes takes Bruce under their wing to train him, he realizes that there's more to justice than raw vengeance. With a new sense of purpose, Bruce returns to Gotham to rid the city of crime and to make a new name for himself as Batman, the Dark Knight.

The story doesn't end here, though. Bruce must still deal with the



Just for Fun!

Got a few extra minutes? Quiz everyone on the following *Batman Begins* movie quotes.

WHO SAID:

- “Why do we fall, Bruce? So we can learn to pick ourselves up.”
(Thomas Wayne)
 - “I seek a means to fight injustice, to turn fear against those who prey on the fearful.”
(Bruce Wayne)
 - “Do I look like a cop?”
(Bruce Wayne)
 - “All creatures feel fear. Especially the scary ones.”
(Thomas Wayne)
 - “Justice is harmony. Revenge is about you making yourself feel better.”
(Rachel Dawes)
 - “Your compassion is a weakness your enemies will not share.” “That’s why it’s so important; it separates us from them.”
(Henri Ducard, Bruce Wayne)
 - “Gentlemen. Time to spread the word. And the word is—panic.”
(Henri Ducard)
 - “It’s not who you are underneath, it’s what you do that defines you.”
(Rachel Dawes)
-

loose threads and problems he left behind. Not only is the city caught in the grip of a criminal kingpin; Batman is secretly threatened by an enemy from his past—one with a deadly plan to destroy the very minds of the people of Gotham. It seems impossible for one man to make a difference, but Bruce is determined to be more than just a man...

THE POST SHOW



Bible Passages

You may want to use these Bible passages during your movie discussion:

- Psalm 56:3-4
“When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?”
- Psalm 91:5
“You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day.”
- Psalm 94:16
“Who rise up for me against the wicked? Who will take a stand for me against evildoers?”
- Proverbs 31:8-9
“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”
- Isaiah 58:6
“Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”

DISCUSSION


After the movie, use some or all of these questions to discuss the spiritual themes in *Batman Begins*.





How did Bruce Wayne’s fears affect his growth as a person?





Do you think Christians should deal with their fears differently than those who don’t believe in Jesus? Explain.


 Was Bruce justified in seeking vengeance? How did his obsession with vengeance hurt or help him? What do you think caused him to change his mind about seeking vengeance when he rebelled against Ducard?

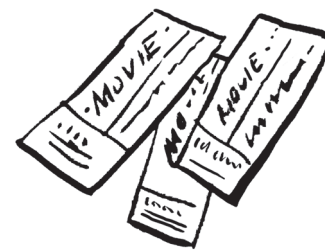
 Do you ever find yourself in alignment with Ducard regarding your beliefs about justice? How far do you believe we should go in administering earthly punishment? Why?

 How did Bruce Wayne's efforts to bring justice to Gotham differ from the way of the League of Shadows? How would you compare this to a Christian vision of justice?

 Batman is portrayed as a rogue vigilante. Is there a danger in deciding upon what's just on our own? If so, what is the danger and how can we guard against it?

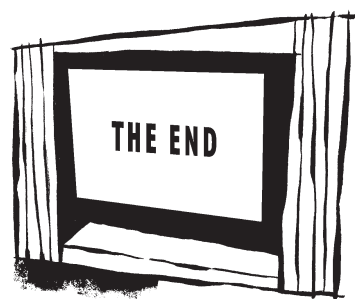
 In what way is Gotham a metaphor for society? In what way is Batman's guardianship over it a metaphor for our own lives?

 What do you find appealing about Bruce Wayne's life and his quest for justice as Batman? What do you find unappealing (what are the downsides)? How does that relate to your pursuit of justice in your own life?



PRAYER

Wrap things up by praying together. Have everyone take turns offering prayer requests. Remember to thank God for providing relief from our fears, and pray that he would guide us as we protect our own "Gothams."





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