

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

**NEVER SAY NEVER...**

*FOR NOTHING IS  
IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD*

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JUSTIN BIEBER  
**NEVER SAY NEVER**



Photo credit: Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

## INTRODUCTION

by Pattie Mallette (Justin's Mother)



Photo credit: Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

My name is Pattie Mallette, Justin's mother. I'm sure you can imagine the extraordinary ride we've been on the last couple of years. One minute I'm a single mother working two jobs and living on "geared to income housing" and the next I'm traveling the globe parenting a mega pop star.

I believe God has a plan for each of our lives and that it is a good plan (Jeremiah 29:11). As a woman of faith and a praying mom, I would pray often about God's plan for Justin's life and mine, having no idea at the time just how BIG His plans were. Truly, nothing is impossible with

God. He called us to be a light in this world and has provided more than what we needed.

Justin has all the normal challenges of any other 16 year-old Christian youth, with the same struggles and temptations. When you add fame and influence and all the unseen pressures of his industry, the challenges increase significantly. He needs a strong faith-based community now more than ever to encourage him on as a light and to hold him up in prayer!

The new movie *Justin Bieber: Never Say Never* tells all about his inspiring journey. God has blessed Justin with incredible talent and a larger-than-life personality. Now Justin is sharing those gifts – as well as his gift of faith – with the world. He is doing what he feels he's been created and called to do, and I'm loving and supporting him as only a mom can.

The power of prayer is effective (James 5:16) and we depend on it. Prayer has been an important part of Justin's life since childhood. I have a large and growing intercession group that is praying for Justin as he proceeds on his world tour and gets ready for his movie debut. The film's title is fitting because Justin never gives up on his dreams. He keeps on dreaming despite the many obstacles and challenges he's faced in his young life. With all that's happened in these last couple of whirlwind years, the phrase will always have special meaning for us. Never say never, for nothing is impossible with God!

## ABOUT THE FILM

*Justin Bieber: Never Say Never* is the story of the meteoric rise of a talented young musician in our hyper-accelerated social media age and how his family and friends are helping him live his impossible dream in a prudent and healthy manner.

Very much a product of our times, Justin Bieber's name is on the lips and laptops of millions of fans. Dramatically eclipsing the long line of teen heartthrobs that preceded him, Bieber has become an entertainment industry icon of epic proportions, with staggering numbers of Facebook friends, YouTube views, followers on Twitter, and records sold.

*Justin Bieber: Never Say Never* documents his humble beginnings in suburban middle-class Ontario, his discovery on YouTube by manager Scooter Braun, and his subsequent breathtaking ascent to international superstardom. Featuring exclusive footage of his current worldwide concert tour, the film includes scenes of Justin growing up, learning from Christian rockers how to play the drums, being nurtured by his mother and grandparents, and hanging out with his core group of boyhood friends. The movie includes appearances by Usher and Boyz II Men, who serve as mentors and interact with Justin in a nurturing, protective manner.

*Justin Bieber: Never Say Never* represents the kind of compelling cultural event that can't help but spark spirited discussion in faith circles. Set against a backdrop of stardom, worldly fame, and youthful fascination with pop culture, the film focuses on the other side of it – the childlike innocence, vulnerability, and determined adult protectiveness behind it all. The film is being released nationwide in 3D by Paramount Pictures on February 11th, 2011.

For group sales information including private advance screenings or to plan an event, please contact 855-4BIEBER or [JBgroup\\_sales@paramount.com](mailto:JBgroup_sales@paramount.com). Make your youth group be among the first to see Justin's new movie!

## ABOUT THE DISCUSSION GUIDE

*Justin Bieber: Never Say Never* provides an opportunity to teach our children about the power of hope, prayer, faith and family. Much can be learned from Justin's story. But what many may not know is that Justin is a practicing Christian who has stated publicly that he believes in God and that God is the reason he has gotten to where he is. Before every show, he prays the Lord's Prayer and then a Jewish prayer with his manager.

Given that our children's attention often goes to their music and other media rather than to their faith, youth ministers often attempt to steer them toward God through music. In being who he is and rising to the heights of entertainment industry success, Justin Bieber has provided a golden opportunity for faith leaders to energize young people in the practice of their faith.

This group discussion guide is designed to facilitate that by breaking open the themes of the film. From discerning one's purpose in life to the importance of godly friendships, to the need for goal-setting, hard work, and perseverance, this booklet will prepare youth leaders to facilitate fruitful group discussions about *Justin Bieber: Never Say Never*. It provides prompts for youth or music group discussion by isolating themes, breaking them open in relation to the film, and providing Scriptures and thought-provoking questions that spark discussion to help place the various elements of the film into context.

## DISCUSSIONS

In an effort to help you reinforce the themes and messages of *Justin Bieber: Never Say Never*, we recommend that you see the film as a group and then follow up with the questions and scripture found herein. The questions should draw your group members into a conversation about what they have just seen. It is not necessary to tackle these topics in any particular order, or all in one session. Feel free to go at your own pace.

First introduce the discussion by saying something like, "We're going to talk about several topics – the power of prayer, the importance of godly friendships, etc." Next, give a brief overview of the film, and play the trailer. Then open up the floor for discussion using the questions and scripture provided. You can close each session by giving the brief "Lesson to Learn" provided at the end of each topic. Keep in mind that you do not have to cover all the topics in order to have a successful discussion. Also remember that discussion times are best when you allow freedom, but still provide the framework that points to the lessons in God's word.

## DISCERNING GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

Wealth, honor, pleasure – these are goals that the world promotes. But God wants us to focus on other things, even if he creates a path for us in the entertainment industry. God wants us to steer clear of the false values of the world that destroy the soul. Life isn't about enjoying ourselves all the time. We're supposed to love one another, which entails denying ourselves sometimes, serving others and being generous. At the same time, he doesn't want us to hide our light. So in short, he wants us to be "in the world, but not of the world."

Spiritual discernment involves calling on the Holy Spirit to lead us or provide direction on a matter. It is how the spirit shows us what God wants us to do and become. Discernment is more than just a skill. It is a gift. Yet we can become better at it through training and experience. It usually isn't a sudden zap from above, but something which emerges from prayer, Bible reading and quiet reflection. Whatever your dream may be, God wants you to become salt and light in the world and direct people to his truth. Sometimes his plans are not consistent with our own. When that's the case, we need to have the courage to follow our consciences, which is where we can hear his voice if only we will listen. Learn to discern. *Yearn* to discern.

### QUESTIONS:

Have you had the experience of thinking you were being led by God to do something and it turned out not to be so?

What were the consequences?

What kinds of matters have you sought God's guidance about? How have the results surprised you? Have you ever used "God's will" as a cover for your own plans or ideas?

**READ: 1 Thes 5:20-21**

**"By all means use your judgment, and hold on to whatever is good."**

Among the gifts of the Spirit, few are greater in terms of practical usefulness than the gift of discernment. This gift enables us to distinguish the chaff from the wheat and to separate the lures of the flesh from the operations of the spirit. Not every option that presents itself in our lives is good. Developing skills of discernment helps to filter out

the distractions, avoid sin and stay on the right track.

**READ: Luke 12:57**

**"Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?"**

**READ: Hosea 4:6**

**"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."**

It is important that we judge things properly. If a person with appendicitis is diagnosed as having an ulcer, it may seem a mere matter of terminology, but if judged improperly, the treatment could have dire consequences. Discernment by outward appearances only, without inner reflection, can lead one to confuse cause and effect, symptom and problem, and can be devastating, despite the best of intentions. Ignorance is not an excuse. We need to discern!

**READ: 1 Sam 16:7**

**"...Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."**

Sometimes we tell ourselves that we are prayerfully and intelligently following our hearts. But if what we feel in our hearts as a result of the discernment is superiority, scandal, bitterness, or a desire to detach ourselves from others, then trust that it is not of God. God looks at the heart. If what we "know" about others isn't useful to them or us, we should forget what we "know." It's poison.

### LESSON TO LEARN:

One of the keys to discernment is surrender. If we treat "I" as the emperor of all things, we won't be in the right place to find out what God wants of

us. In fact, this selfish imperial view of existence lies at the heart of all sin: we act as if we're God, even though we certainly know better. The emperor "I" has no clothes. So we need to set aside what we want and join with Jesus in his ultimate prayer, "Yet not as I will, but as You will." (Matt 26:39)

Another key to discernment is a "sense of peace" about something. Such peace and security comes and grows with prayer, and its absence is bad news. Peace is a gift God is more than happy to give. He wants us to have some sense of security about what we do, and since he is not a God of confusion, he wants to give us clarity and peace. This elevation to an intimate dependency and trust in God is achieved through prayer, humility and sacrifice. May it be an experience of joy for you to discover this path!



Photo credit: Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

## THE POWER OF PRAYER

To be a Christian is to be a person who prays. Prayer is vital. It is like breathing. It is breath for the soul. Even when feeling dry, pray!

Justin created a beautiful song and video called *Pray*. In it, he is seen humbly serving and brightening the hearts of earthquake and flood victims, sick people, military families and the poor. The lyrics correctly teach that “listening is the beginning of prayer.” God speaks to us in a special way when we set aside time each day to connect with him in the quiet of our hearts. Prayer time – alone or together with one’s family or friends – is a time when graces flow.

Countless people leave the faith because their behaviors cause them to lose interest over time. They live exteriorly and stop praying. Our faith cannot depend on our feelings, emotions and sentiments. Our interior life should be cultivated no matter how we feel. We should persevere in prayer no matter what. Morning offering, where we offer to God our works, joys and sufferings of that day, is a great prayer. So is a nightly examination of conscience, where we take an inventory of our day from a spiritual perspective and promise God a better effort the next day. We can also speak to God throughout the day, telling him our troubles and thanking him for our joys. But the bottom line is: we’re either growing in the faith or diminishing. There’s no standing still. Prayer keeps us moving forward.

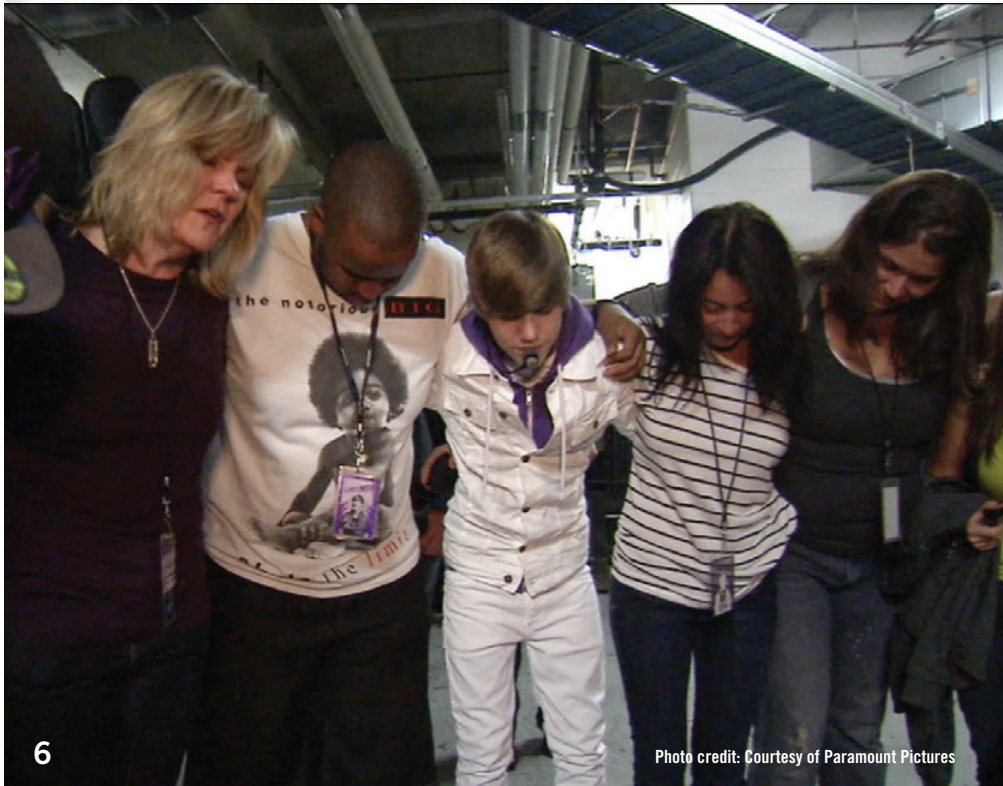


Photo credit: Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

## QUESTIONS:

For what kinds of things should we pray? Have you ever perceived the hand of God acting personally in your life? Do you get discouraged when the answer to your prayer is “no” or do you recognize that God probably knows better than you do what’s in your best interest?

**READ: James 5:13-16**

**“If any of you is in trouble, let him pray. If anyone is flourishing, let him sing praises to God... Believing prayer will save the sick man; the Lord will restore him and any sins that he has committed will be forgiven... Tremendous power is available through a good man’s earnest prayer.”**

God’s help through the power of prayer is available for all kinds of requests and issues. The Lord’s Prayer is much more than a prayer we simply recite to God. It represents a model for how we are to pray, including the elements of worship, trust in God, requests, confession, protection and deliverance. Pray for these things, and feel free to use your own words.

The Word of God is full of accounts describing the power of prayer in various situations. The power of prayer has overcome enemies (Psalms 6:9-10), conquered death (2 Kings 4:3-36), brought healing (James 5:14-15), and defeated demons (Mark 9:29). God, through prayer, opens eyes, changes hearts, heals wounds, and grants wisdom (James 1:5). The power of prayer should never be underestimated because it draws on the glory and might of the infinitely powerful God of the universe!

**READ: Luke 11:9**

**“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”**

## LESSON TO LEARN:

Jesus frequently went off to pray, setting an example for us to do the same. Prayer is simply talking and listening to our heavenly Father – and the answers we receive are not based on our prayers’ eloquence. If you’re having trouble, just ask God for help.

Studies performed in the medical field have clearly established the power of prayer. One study enlisted two groups of people in hospitals and observed the differences between the one group that was being prayed for, and the other that was not. The result was that there was a marked increase in recovery rates among those being prayed for – and they weren’t even told they were being prayed for! Most hospitals recognize the importance of prayer in the healing process of their patients and welcome pastors and chaplains to be a part of the healing team.

God desires intimacy and relationship, and prayer is our means of literally plugging into eternity. It is a principal means by which heavenly grace flows into our souls. So in the midst of our busy lives, let’s be sure to remember how much we need to make prayer a daily practice, our first resort as well as our last. If we are too busy to talk to God, then we are *too busy!*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF GODLY FRIENDSHIPS

Besides family, solid friendships represent a bond that is one of the most noble aspects of human life. Justin's quality friendships from his childhood to the present day jump out in *Justin Bieber: Never Say Never*. They clearly anchor his life and provide him with the stability that a young man in his position needs to stay on course.

Friendship for a Christian can be an effective means of sharing our faith with others. This entails friendships that are sincere and authentic and not merely tools for our own self-gratification. Friendship is and must be recognized as an end in itself. There are many examples in history and literature of admirable friendships, and these examples do not necessarily involve religious faith. However, friendship can be uplifted to its highest level when we share the ultimate good: God himself. To introduce or re-introduce Jesus Christ to another man is the greatest good of human friendship.

Throughout the history of the Church, starting with our Lord himself, Christianity has been spread principally through the one-on-one encounters that have caused the Church to grow since the time of the apostles. But we cannot rest. There are still countless people waiting to hear the good news of Jesus Christ and his Church.

In many cases today, "friendship" means a largely artificial tie based on a common interest in sports, social activities, or even an unhealthy interest in partying or the pursuit of the opposite sex. "Acquaintance" would actually be a better term for these kinds of relationships. A real friendship is a deep and lasting bond that goes to the very core of what a person is or can be.

We might say that friendship is a social relation characterized by mutual affection. Love does not necessarily demand reciprocity, but friendship requires it. It takes two to form a friendship. The bond thus formed fosters other human virtue, such as selfless giving, understanding, compassion, and the spirit of working together.



## QUESTIONS:

Who in my life can I count as a true friend? Which of my friends would lay down their life for me, and I for them? Who can I go to in total trust? If I were to die today, how many people would really care and miss me for more than a few days? How many lives were changed in a positive way by my friendship?

**READ: 1 Samuel 18:1**

**"When he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul."**

**READ: 2 Sam 1:26**

**"I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant you have been to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women."**

The most notable and moving example of friendship in the Old Testament is that of David and Jonathan, the son of his enemy King Saul. David's elegy over Saul and Jonathan is one of the most beautiful poems of the Bible. After Jonathan's death in a battle that enables David to claim his kingship, David laments him with the heart of a true friend.

**READ: Proverbs 18:24**

**"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."**

**READ: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

**If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!"**

**READ: John 15:12-15**

**"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from my Father I have made known to you."**

## LESSON TO LEARN:

Jesus tells us, "I have called you friends." Friendship with Christ is the very purpose of the life of the Christian, as he is the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus gave everything to his friends—his knowledge of God and his very life. Jesus is our model for friendship because he loved without limits, and he makes it possible for us to live a life of friendship because we have been transformed by everything he shared with us.

We cannot just be passive. We have to become a real friend of our friends — by helping them, first with the example of our behavior and then with our advice and influence. It is impossible to truly love God and at the same time let ourselves be ruled by selfishness or apathy in our dealings with our friends. Let us commit to being loyal and never allow weeds to grow on the paths of our friendships.

## GOAL-SETTING, HARD WORK & PERSEVERANCE

Perhaps the most emotionally impactful aspect of *Justin Bieber: Never Say Never* is the intense effort Justin puts forth to accomplish his goal of sharing his talent and happy disposition with his ever-growing fan base. We watch in awe as he overcomes obstacles and pushes relentlessly forward, and we come to care deeply for him as health dangers threaten to derail his dream. He pushes himself hard to meet the demands of his rigorous tour schedule and the expectations of his fans.

Work is man's original vocation. It is a blessing from God, and those who consider it a punishment are mistaken. The Lord, who is the best of fathers, placed the first man in paradise so that he would work. To work is an inescapable duty for all Christians. It is the means of discovering and carrying out our destinies, and attracting others to God. Jesus is our ultimate model when it comes to work. As an adolescent and as a young man, he disputed with the doctors in the Temple and then worked for the next two decades in Joseph's workshop in silence and obscurity and submission.

Discipline is a word that derives from "discipleship." A disciple is one who is disciplined. In spite of everything, they set goals, work hard and persevere. For a disciple, failing is an invitation to pick oneself back up and begin again. Think of the Apostle Peter. He failed spectacularly when his big moment came. Unlike Judas, though, he recognized that he could get back up, seek forgiveness and try to do better next time. He did just that and went the distance, providing leadership to the early Church. Success is built upon failure, and perseverance is the cornerstone. No matter what struggle you may face, no matter what you're up against, no matter how many times you fall, never quit.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

## QUESTIONS:

Have you taken the time to set short- and long-range goals for yourself? What daily challenges do you face in pursuing them? What will it take for you to become a better and more disciplined disciple?

**READ: James 1:2-4**

**"When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realize that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance."**

**READ: 1 Pet 1:6-7**

**"This means tremendous joy to you, even though at present you may be temporarily harassed by all kinds of trials. This is no accident – it happens to prove your faith, which is infinitely more valuable than gold, and gold, as you know, even though it is ultimately perishable, must be purified by fire."**

Pursuing serious goals with a sporting spirit can very often yield wonderful results. There will be setbacks, perhaps even long losing streaks. Accept them as inevitable and push through them with love and confidence. Because a crown awaits those who persevere until the end.

**READ: 1 Cor 9:24**

**"Run in such a way as to get the prize."**

**JUSTIN BIEBER: NEVER SAY NEVER** opens in theaters on February 11, 2011.

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Make your youth group be among the first to see Justin's new movie!

**READ: Heb 10:32, 35-39**

**"... in the face of suffering... do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a little while, 'He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.' But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved."**

## LESSON TO LEARN:

The season of life is a long one. We face a range of similar challenges day in and day out. Without goal-setting and discipline, it is very easy to lose focus. The challenge is to get in there and treat each new opportunity as the opportunity we were made for.

To be happy, we need not so much an easy life as a heart which is in love. Not all of us were born to be rock stars. But before God, no occupation is in itself great or small. Everything gains the value of the love with which it is done. The way of love is called sacrifice. The cheerful love that fills the soul with happiness is founded on sacrifice; there is no real love without it.

A black and white profile photograph of Justin Bieber wearing a dark hoodie, looking towards the left. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

# JUSTIN BIEBER NEVER SAY NEVER

FIND OUT WHAT'S POSSIBLE IF YOU NEVER GIVE UP

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS A SYCOPRODUCTIONS FILM A FILM BY JOHN DAHLER  
STARRING JUSTIN BIEBER  
CASTING BY JAMES HAMILTON  
COSTUME DESIGNER JAMES HAMILTON  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JAMES HAMILTON  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES HAMILTON, JAY PASKIN, A.J. JOHNSON  
PRODUCED BY JAMES HAMILTON  
WRITTEN BY JAMES HAMILTON  
DIRECTED BY JOHN DAHLER  
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