



# GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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PACIFIC RIM UPRISING (2018) | *Unity in the Drift* | BIBLE STUDY

*Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.*

## PRESS START

*Pacific Rim* has always been a series that meshes unapologetic smash and bash robot vs. monster action with character-based storytelling, and this sequel is no exception. One of the things that really stood out to me in the world of *Pacific Rim* is that morality, dignity, and chivalry are not abandoned in the pursuit of an action-packed experience. For me, the core of that reality lies in the spirit of Drifting. The idea that people must seek to be of one mind in order to accomplish goals they are not strong enough to bear the burden of by themselves speaks to me as a reflection of Christian virtue so direct it almost seems purposeful.

## EQUIP

At its core, this movie is a classic example of good vs. evil: Big monsters, big robots, and the fate of the world in the hands of ordinary people. That's why it's so refreshing to find a truly healthy culture showcased as a necessary element in that fight. So often in movies like *The Expendables*, good and bad get blurry, and the "good guys" don't seem to know what they are fighting for or why. But here, the good guys have to actually behave themselves in order to win.

Drift compatibility is the ability to share space with another mind sustainably and work together with to accomplish something. To do that, we can't chase the rabbit trails of our old emotional scars, and we can't hold onto grudges against our fellow pilots. The characters are part of a system where forgiveness and emotional healing are prerequisites for being able to successfully fight the bad guys.

*Philippians 2:2* "Then make my joy complete by being of one mind, having the same love, being united in spirit and purpose."

## LEVEL UP

**ASK: Are we stuck on emotional scars from our past that prevent us from thinking and interacting in a healthy way in our present?**

Difficult things happen, and no one lives for very long without someone else hurting our feelings. We have a tendency to hold on to the pain of those interactions long after the event is over, and even long after we leave those old relationships behind. As this film does a great job of showcasing, the pain we are still holding onto from our past can prevent us from engaging in our present pursuits. Especially when we are trying to be of one mind and spirit with God and our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ.

## **ASK: Are we harboring resentment against those we are supposed to be cooperating with?**

Conflict has a way of creeping up in any relationship that lasts for more than a few hours. Our closest friends and family can often push our buttons more than anyone else in the world. When these things happen, we have the choice to engage in harboring resentment, or practicing forgiveness. One is easier, the other more productive and healthy. As the film again showcased, one leads to unity, the other to disunity—and eventual destruction.

## **MOD**

It's not just about playing nice with our fellows humans in the sandbox. If we weren't on a mission, created with a purpose, and gifted to accomplish God's plan in the world, then maybe we could just ignore the people we don't like until they went away or we all ended up in heaven. But like the cadets and rangers in this movie, we have a mission and the fate of the world is on the line. We have to learn not just how to get along with each other, but how to follow the orders of our commander well. We all have to be submitted to each other, to the mission, and to the mission's commander, Jesus.

## **ASK: Are our life, choices, and priorities a reflection of pursuing God's plan for this world by accomplishing our part in it, or have we decided to do something else with our lives that's easier, more enjoyable, or less demanding?**

How do we make decisions about what to do with our lives? Are we setting our own vision and making our own battle plans, or coordinating with the commander and trying to accomplish his goals?

*1 Corinthians 12:13 "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free- and all were made to drink of one Spirit"*

## **PRAY**

**Does anyone have anything we need to pray about?**

**Do we need prayer for emotional scars that are still affecting us?**

**Do we need direction from God to know what his plan is and how we can follow it?**

## **THE NEXT LEVEL**

Spiritual unity is not the work of an afternoon. It's supernatural, and often not an all or nothing game. Just like the neural link percentage in the movie, we all have different levels of unity with each other, and with the Holy Spirit.

Seeking spiritual unity isn't about trying to get to 100% right now; it's about trying to get to 54%, 55%, and then to 56%. It's about never giving up and always earnestly seeking. It's about sustaining our commitment not just to forgive our past hurts, but to let go of future ones.

**Acts 1:14** "All these with one mind were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the Mother of Jesus, and his brothers."

**Acts 4:32** "The congregation of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they owned.

**Romans 12:5** "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually member of one another"

Spiritual unity, and the decisions, mindset, and choices required to attain and maintain it, are central to Christianity, especially in regards to being healthy members of the Body of Christ. Being a unified part of the Body of Christ is an integral part of following after Christ's leadership as Lord and Head of our lives.

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