

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF WICKED: How a Villain Is Made

Family Discussion Guide

Use this guide to connect as a family, talk about labels and belonging, and practice standing up for what is right.

1. BEFORE WATCHING



Set the stage and open hearts and minds.

- **Younger kids:** Have you ever been left out, or seen someone left out, just for being different?
- **Teens:** Where do the stories we believe about "good" and "bad" people actually come from?

2. WHILE WATCHING



Pay attention to labels, choices, and turning points.

- **Younger kids:** How do people treat Elphaba when they first see her, and how does it make her feel?
- **Teens:** How does the Wizard turn Elphaba into the "enemy," and who benefits from that story?
- **Teens:** When does Glinda feel pressure to protect her popularity instead of her friend?

3. AFTER WATCHING



Reflect together and make meaning.

- **Younger kids:** Was Elphaba really wicked, or did people just decide to call her that?
- **Teens:** What did it cost Elphaba to refuse the Wizard and "defy gravity"?
- **Teens:** Glinda made a different choice and stayed. Was she a villain, or just human?

4. FAMILY REFLECTION



Go deeper with empathy, honesty, and connection.

- **Younger kids:** Who could you stand next to the way a good friend should have stood next to Elphaba?
- **Teens:** When have you felt pressure to go along with the group to keep your own place?
- **Try this:** Before believing a story about someone, ask one question: who does this story serve?

DR. Z TAKEAWAY

“

The girl they decided to hate did not become wicked because she was wicked.

She became wicked because she was named wicked, and refusing that name is its own kind of courage.

”



DR. MICHAEL ZAKALIK, PSY.D.
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Connection heals.
Conversations help.