Planning a Reel Family Time

Planning a movie outing to see a movie could be a fun way to engage the families in your church and/or families that you want to reach out to. Following are a few suggestions of ways you might do this:

If you want to rent a theatre:

Some of you may want to consider renting out theatre space to create your own Reel Family Time event. If this is what you're looking to do follow the steps below:

1. Call your local theatre's number and inquire about renting theatre space for a private screening.
2. Depending on how large the movie company is you may need to connect with an external Private Screenings Team.
3. Let them know the date you are looking to host this event and inquire about the times they have available. Many theatres have set times they allow private screenings to be done or they have a price difference depending on whether you rent in the morning or the evening.
4. Theatre companies will also let you know what their minimum number of guests is for a private screening. Most theatres require you have a minimum of 10 people and if you have less than that you are required to pay for the minimum regardless.
5. You will need to ask if you are allowed to charge your guests for a ticket. Some theatres will not allow you to charge people who attend your private screening and will only let you communicate that donations are welcome. Other theatres will let you set a price for your tickets. It's important that you clarify this at the time of your booking.
6. Inquire about concession. Often times you can choose whether you pay up front for concession for everyone or you can choose to make concession an option the day of your event. If you choose day of purchases, your guests will need to bring money to purchase their concession as it would not be included in your up-front ticket cost.
7. Ask the Private Screenings rep if you are able to set up a table the day of the event so that you can have guests check in and get their tickets. This will allow tickets to be picked up, important information to be communicated and total attendance numbers to be gathered.
8. If you are looking to welcome guests and speak at the front of the theatre prior to the movie beginning ask about whether or not you need to pay an additional fee for this. Some theatres offer what are called "Welcome Packages" and will offer you a few minutes of introduction time that they provide a microphone for but often this is at an additional cost.

Group Tickets:

Instead of booking a private screening of the movie, you might want to consider booking a block of group tickets. Many theatres have options for purchasing a certain number of tickets for a particular screening at a discounted price. If this is what you are looking to do follow the steps below:

1. Call your local theatre's number and inquire about booking group tickets for a movie showing.
2. Depending on how large the movie company is you may need to connect with an external Group Bookings Team.
3. Let them know the date you are looking to host this event and inquire about the times they have available. Many theatres have set times they allow group bookings to be done or they have a price difference depending on whether you choose a showing during the day or in the evening.
4. Theatre companies will also let you know what their minimum and maximum number of guests is for a group booking. Most theatres require you have a minimum of 20 people, up to a maximum of 99 people for a single theatre/showing.
5. Inquire about concession. Often times you can choose whether you pay up front for a discounted concession for everyone or you can choose to make concession an option the day of your event. If you choose day of purchases, your guests will need to bring money to purchase their concession as it would not be included in your up-front ticket cost.
6. Inquire about the option of setting up a table or creating a ‘welcome’ area for your guests on the day of the movie. Depending on what may be permitted from the theatre this could be a good way of connecting with your group and/or giving out tickets and anything else you might wish to distribute to families.

If neither of the above options are ideal for your community, consider choosing a date/time that works for your families and attend that screening together. Or invite families to choose their own night out and invite other families to join them.

Whichever way you choose to host this event, here are some other ideas for you to incorporate:

1. Download and print copies of the Discussion Guide created by CBOQ Children and Family Ministries. You will find a list of the movies that we have created Discussion Guides for as well as the date they will be available if they are for soon to be released movies.
2. Plan to gather together following the movie at your church or a local venue for a follow up activity or discussion appropriate to your community and event purpose.