



A Study Guide for Youth Pastors

What is a Fluffy?

A Fluffy is a cute and fuzzy alien from outer space. Although it was discovered by astronauts on a mission to Mars, its true origin is unknown. Fluffy appeared on the Martian surface after an asteroid crashed on the red planet, causing organic life to spring up everywhere. It may well be from beyond our galaxy.

Although Fluffy appears as cute and harmless as a little hamster, with a cute squeaky noise, it is exceedingly dangerous. They reproduce rapidly and have an insatiable appetite for human flesh. No known photographs or video exist of Fluffy. Few humans have ever seen one and lived to tell the tale.

Origins of Fluffy

The idea for Fluffy was initially inspired by a book called *Monsters from the Id*, an examination of the horror genre that made a link between the rise of horror and the Enlightenment era. Two of the hallmarks of the Enlightenment were a pulling away from traditional moral values, particularly the Bible, and sexual liberation. Yet despite all attempts to free themselves from God's law, advocates of the Enlightenment and its looser sense of morality could not escape the conviction of sin that still dwelt within the heart.

Take the case of Mary Shelley, the daughter of Enlightenment philosophers who, as a teenager, began an affair with renowned poet Percy Bysshe Shelley while he was still married to his first wife. Mary and Percy would eventually marry after the death of Percy's son and the suicide of his first wife. Mary herself would have a miscarriage early in their marriage. This incident had a deep impact on the young woman, leading to a series of horrifying nightmares - dreams that would inspire the novel *Frankenstein*.

The author of *Monsters from the Id* contends that Frankenstein's creature, and all the other monsters that have followed, are not in fact evil. Rather, they are the faceless executioner carrying out the death sentence pronounced on mankind. As Paul put it in Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death." The author traces the path of the monster from Europe to America, from *Dracula* to the rise of horror films in the 1950's and even today. Even Kevin Williamson acknowledged a link between sin and death in horror films when he wrote the

rules for surviving a horror movie in his screenplay for *Scream*: if you have sex in a horror movie, you will die.

Creating Fluffy

After reading *Monsters from the Id*, I wrote two different scripts playing on the idea of the monster being the judge, jury, and executioner for the sinful. The first was a stage play that nearly became a feature film, but when the producer changed the story into a tale of spiritual warfare, I decided to come up with something simpler – something I could shoot on my own. I wrote the original *Fluffy* script in 2002, but was not able to shoot the film until 2004. It was two years later I had the means and resources to finish the film, releasing it in 2007 on the web and the DVD *Holy Shorts*. My goal was to create a short film that would make people laugh, yet be useful as a tool for youth leaders to begin a discussion about the consequences of sin and/or the horror genre.

F2: Fluffy Strikes Back was written, filmed, and completed in a matter of months, due in part to the encouragement by some long time *Fluffy* fans and the discovery of some new talent that could improve on the original short. The original goal remained the same, with two additional goals: raise the body count, and raise the campy/cheesy factor. Thanks to a stroke of good fortune, we were also able to raise the production values significantly.

The Last Temptation of Fluffy is the final film in the trilogy. While it touches on the “wages of sin” themes that dominate the first two, the film goes a little deeper by exploring the idea of whether or not one can have safe sex outside of marriage. Trish Angel (herself now married to Stone Brockman) discovers a secret government plot to create a “safe” Fluffy, one that can be had by anyone without fear of consequence. Of course there’s no such thing as a safe Fluffy any more than there is safe sex, and the film ends in the biggest blood bath yet.

Trish’s marriage to Stone presents another related theme, that of strong marriages being the one defense to sins of the flesh. The pursuit of a safe Fluffy drove a wedge between the two of them, but by coming back together, the couple is able to survive the aliens and go on to help others.

Major Themes in Fluffy

1. **No Sin Is Harmless.** Everyone who encounters Fluffy is intrigued by the cute, innocent-looking creature with the squeaky voice. Everyone who sees Fluffy wants to take a closer look. For most, it is the last look they will ever take.

How many of us have fallen prey to sin because we deceived ourselves, believing that no harm could come of it? Little white lies, brief glimpses of photos on the Internet, a stolen pack of gum... it may look simple and

harmless. It may not affect anyone around us immediately. But no sin is without consequences, external or internal.

2. Sin Spreads Like a Disease. In all three movies, someone makes the mistake of bringing Fluffy into their house. In both cases, one little Fluffy soon becomes a multitude that can no longer be hidden or contained. That one tiny sin we conceal in our homes will not stay hidden forever. It will multiply, grow, and spread. One sin leads to another. Then to another. Then on to bigger sin. Left unchecked, it will consume us.

3. Sexual Sin is Never Private. This theme is central to the first Fluffy film. Astronaut Dex Tucker is a rule breaker, in his work and his marriage. His attempt to have an affair with Trish, and then Audrey, leads to the destruction of his family, his lover, and eventually his own life. Adultery is never a private sin. Whether its simple lust, pornography, or an affair, the sin destroys the mind, then the relationships around you. How many divorces, how many wrecked homes, how many ruined lives will it take before we realize that sex outside God's plan is a deadly and dangerous sin?

4. Sin Must Be Annihilated. There is no way for Fluffy and mankind to coexist in peace. In the end, one must destroy the other completely. It is not enough to almost eradicate Fluffy from the Earth. Fluffy will come back to kill again.

Christ cannot dwell where sin exists. If we truly want to be his disciples, we must eliminate all temptations, all traces of sin from our lives. We must flee sexual immorality. We must flee sin of any kind. We must guard ourselves, our homes, and our loved ones. It only takes one sin, one weak spot, to make us vulnerable to attack.

5. There Is No Safe Sex Outside of God's Design. Mankind has tried desperately to make sex a safe, recreational activity liberated from its original intent: intimacy between a husband and wife. There is no fool-proof system for avoiding disease or pregnancy. Even if there was, there is no safeguard against the emotional and psychological damage recreational sex can cause.

God doesn't put limitations on us to be a bully. He does so to protect us. Strong marriages and a commitment to purity outside of marriage are our best hope for a happy, healthy sexual life.

Suggested Discussion Questions

There's plenty of material and symbolism in the Fluffy trilogy to make your own questions. But if you're really stumped, here are some questions to get you started.

General Questions

1. Why are people drawn to watch horror films?
2. Why do you think many Christians are less drawn to horror?
3. Is there a connection between the subconscious themes of sin and death and the attraction/repulsion regarding horror?
4. What other movies do you see this allegory play out?
5. What parallels do you see between Fluffy and sin in our own lives?
6. What does Fluffy have to say about the nature of "little" sins?
7. How do little sins open the door for bigger sins?
8. How can you use horror films to point someone to Christ?

Fluffy

1. How does Dex's sin manifest itself in the story?
2. Is there a connection between Dex's adultery and his willingness to break the rules on the mission to Mars?
3. At what point does Dex's sin doom his family?
4. Could the Fluffy threat have ever been contained? How?
5. Dex's actions with Fluffy cause harm to his lover, his family, and ultimately his community. Is this spiderweb effect true of sin as well?
5. What hope is there for all mankind now that Fluffy has been released in the wild?

F2: Fluffy Strikes Back

1. What actions lead to the deaths of each character in the story?
2. Could any of these deaths have been avoided? How?
3. What is Mike's motivation for bringing Fluffy home and caring for it?
4. In the end, Mike is remorseful for his actions. Do you think he was truly innocent in knowing that his actions would cause such harm?

The Last Temptation of Fluffy

1. What parallels can we draw between the “safe Fluffy project” and our own sinful desires?
2. Why do you think Stone was driven to create the safe Fluffy project?
3. Is safe sex a reality or a myth? Explain your answer.
4. What is God’s plan for sex?
5. Is it possible to live out God’s plan for sex and marriage in our society? Why or why not?

Suggested scripture for study

James 1:14-16

Romans 6:23

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

1 Peter 5:8

Romans 3:23-24

Websites

Fluffy: www.fluffythemovie.com

Righteous Insanity Home Page: www.righteousinsanity.com

John Cospers Home Page: www.johncosper.com