



# a bug's life



**Rated:** G • **Running Time:** 95 minutes

**Themes:** Bravery, duty, cooperation, patience, standing up to bullies, acceptance, thinking outside the box, forgiveness, honesty, believing in others, overcoming insecurity

**Cautions:** Name-calling includes “stupid,” “moron,” “idiot” and “poo-poo heads.” Other language: “shut up,” “butt”

### Story Summary

*They come. They eat. They leave.* At least that’s how the grasshopper-ant ecosystem normally works on Ant Island. But when a clumsy, inventive worker named Flik accidentally destroys his colony’s food offering, the oppressive grasshopper gang (led by Hopper) insists that they replace it before the end of the season ... or *else*. The problem? If the colony spends all summer gathering food for Hopper, there won’t be time to collect their own winter supply before the dangerous rains begin.

Ant princess Atta and her royal court would love to get rid of Flik before he can cause more trouble. So when he volunteers for the fool’s errand of finding a band of warrior bugs to help battle the grasshoppers, they let him go. Soon after, he returns, recruits in tow. This inspires the colony, which is eager to defend itself against the bullies. But just when it seems Flik has finally redeemed himself, he realizes that a major misunderstanding caused him to recruit *circus* bugs, not fighters.

Despite a desperate attempt to conceal his latest gaffe, Flik’s deception is exposed, and his dishonesty earns him banishment. Meanwhile, the colony scrambles to gather whatever food it can before the ruthless grasshoppers return and the rains pour down. As Hopper’s gang moves in, little Princess Dot learns of a plan to squish the queen, so she catches up to Flik and the circus bugs, who return with a plan to save the day. But what ultimately makes the difference is the ants’ realization that, while they may be small, there’s power in numbers when fighting evil.

### Family Activity

The ant colony mimics the structure of a family in many ways. Each member plays a part. Adopt a project that requires an assembly line, with each family member manning a station. You could build a birdhouse, bake cookies, or even serve meals at a homeless shelter. The key is that productivity will halt unless each person per-

forms his or her task. Afterward, talk about the different jobs you had, and how each was vital for the group’s success. Imagine what might have happened had tasks not been completed properly or on time.

### Talking Points

1. Flik encourages Princess Dot, reminding her that she’ll keep growing, just as a small seed grows into a large tree. Does your child share Dot’s feelings of inadequacy? Share Jesus’ parable of the mustard seed from Matthew 13:31-32. Then point to 1 Timothy 4:12 as a reminder that God uses willing servants, regardless of age or size.

2. Some of the ants look down on Flik because he sees the world differently than they do. Ask, “How can God teach us by using friends or family to help us see things from a different perspective?” How can we be more loving and accepting of those who are different? Talk about our call to love others in John 13:34-35 and Mark 12:31.

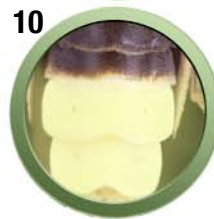
3. When he discovers that his new friends are circus bugs instead of warriors, Flik hides the truth from his colony. How does Flik’s lie cause problems, both for him and for others? Read Ephesians 4:25 and explore how we can unintentionally hurt people when we lie.

4. Throughout the film, we see an underlying theme of bullying. It starts in the “home” as the colony belittles Flik for his wild imagination, and bigger kids pick on Dot for her size. Meanwhile, Hopper abuses his grasshopper cronies, then bullies the ants, whom he considers “lower than dirt.” Has this issue touched your family? Pray about it together. Then empower your child to handle bullies. Be practical and specific, noting Jesus’ command to love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-44).

—by Rachel von Gnechten



The insects God created are amazing, aren't they? Maggie took a closer look at some bugs that you might find in your backyard. Can you tell what she saw?



# POP QUIZ

See if you can answer these questions about the movie. Then find those answers hiding in the grid to the right (up and down, or across).

- Flik's secret crush, heir to the throne \_\_\_\_\_
- P.T. Flea runs one, like Ringling Bros. \_\_\_\_\_
- It creates panic by breaking the production line \_\_\_\_\_
- The story's bully, voiced by actor Kevin Spacey \_\_\_\_\_
- Heimlich grows them at the end of the movie \_\_\_\_\_
- The anthill is on one, often surrounded by water \_\_\_\_\_
- Hopper uses mosquitoes as these \_\_\_\_\_
- He was wrong for lying about the circus bugs \_\_\_\_\_
- The only thing Hopper is afraid of \_\_\_\_\_
- One falls on Francis, injuring his leg \_\_\_\_\_

