Intro for *What About Bob?*

What About Bob? is a film that most people know. They will tell you that it is a silly and somewhat superficial comedy from the 90's--and most have dismissed it as just that. It is that--but I don't want to reduce it to that alone. I have found so much meaning in it! Even though I have seen it (probably over a thousand times!), I still pick up something new in it's themes. This begs me to ask the question: "What is the purpose of comedy, *anyway*?"

Is comedy a cheap and fleeting way to pass the time--a "feel-good" opportunity in the midst of life's doldrums and problems? Is it merely an escape? I would challenge the temptation to think so. Comedy is full of intellectual and introspective themes. Comedy is an exaggeration of reality--it throws reality in our faces with no excuses. It forces us to really look at circumstances--and it calls us out. Comedy shows us who we really are (as persons) and holds a mirror up to our behavior.

In this film, we will hear the phrase: "Take a vacation from your problems". Well, comedy breaks through our problems by highlighting them… We will be observing the many problems of a man in the character of Dr Leo Marvin--and his reactions to the huge surprise that gets thrown into his life.

What happens when a man's plans and ego get destroyed? Well, in *What About Bob?*, we laugh at a man's supposed downfall--while we think of ourselves and our own ability to handle surprise. Let's embrace it!