

MEETING JESUS AT THE MOVIES GUIDE

Wonder



2017, 1 hr 53 min

Jacob Tremblay, Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson

Themes: Family, Kindness, Compassion, Love of neighbor

Focus: *The image of the vine and the branches reflects of our union with God and love of neighbor. Wonder is an analogy of these bonds through family and friendship.*

Scripture: John 15: 1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit He'll remove, and every branch that does bear fruit He'll prune so it will bear more fruit. You're already pure because of the word I've spoken to you. Abide in me and I'll abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, likewise you cannot unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is who bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Unless someone abides in me he's thrown out like a branch and withers and they gather them and throw them into the fire and they're burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it will happen for you. In this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

(Alternative Scripture—Colossians 3: 12-15)

For Reflection and Conversation:

1. Jesus in the Gospel says, "Apart from me you can do nothing." How does this apply to the film? How were the characters dependent on each other?
2. Every character (Auggie, Isabel, Nate, Via, Miranda, Jack) was carrying around some kind of hurt that they didn't want to share with others. How did they work through their hurts to love and compassion?
3. What do you think about the family dynamics and relationships in the film? How did they grow throughout the film, especially in regards to Via?
4. Forgiveness is a big part of the movie. Auggie forgives Jack. Via forgives Auggie. Auggie forgives his Dad. Do you think that was easy for them? Do you have the courage to ask for forgiveness from those you've wronged? Can you forgive those who have hurt you?
5. The Pullman's are a bit like the vine and the branches. They need each other. Talk about family and friendship and why it's so important to work at loving relationships.
6. Do you think Auggie deserved the award at the end of the year? Why or why not? What do you think about his observation that everyone should get at least one standing ovation in their lifetime?

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you are the vine and apart from you we can do nothing. We need the people around us in order to become the best versions of ourselves. Help us abide in you so that we can bear the fruit of kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and love in all our relationships. Amen.

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CINEMA DIVINA GUIDE

Wonder



2017, 1 hr 53 min

Jacob Tremblay, Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson

Themes: Family, Kindness, Compassion, Love of neighbor

Focus: *The image of the vine and the branches reflects of our union with God and love of neighbor. Wonder is an analogy of these bonds through family and friendship.*

Scripture: John 15: 1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit He'll remove, and every branch that does bear fruit He'll prune so it will bear more fruit. You're already pure because of the word I've spoken to you. Abide in me and I'll abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, likewise you cannot unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is who bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Unless someone abides in me he's thrown out like a branch and withers and they gather them and throw them into the fire and they're burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it will happen for you. In this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

(Alternative Scripture—Colossians 3: 12-15)

Cinema Divina:

Lectio: What is the story about? What do the words and images, characters, form, and genre say to me? What does the movie say about family? Kindness? Forgiveness? What did you think of Mr. Browne's precepts?

Meditatio: What part of today's Scripture reading and which part of the movie "chose" you?

Oratio: Let your spontaneous prayer flow from reading and meditating on the film and/or Scripture.

Contemplatio: Spend some time relishing the film as a spiritual experience

Actio: As a result of viewing this film and praying with it, what concrete action is the Holy Spirit calling you to take beyond the film into your everyday life and the world?

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you are the vine and apart from you we can do nothing. We need the people around us in order to become the best versions of ourselves. Help us abide in you so that we can bear the fruit of kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and love in all our relationships. Amen.

KIDS MEETING JESUS AT THE MOVIES GUIDE



Wonder

2017, 1 hr 53 min

Jacob Tremblay, Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson

Themes: Family, Kindness, Compassion, Forgiveness

Focus: *St. Paul urges us to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to everyone, even those people who are different, like Auggie.*

Scripture: Ephesians 4: 29, 31-32

Let no bad word come from your mouths; instead, say only what is necessary and will serve to edify, so that those who hear may receive grace. Let all bitterness, anger, wrath, angry shouting, and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other just as God forgave you in Christ.

For Reflection and Conversation:

1. What did you think of the different characters? Auggie? Via? Miranda? Jack? Julian? Summer?
2. Has anyone said hurtful things to you before? How did you feel? Have you ever said something hurtful? How did that feel? Did you ask forgiveness afterwards?
3. If you met Auggie at school what would you do? Would you stare? Would you say something mean? Would you sit next to him at lunch? Why?
4. Is it easy to be kind to people? Why or why not?
5. Think about Auggie's family, his Mom, Dad, and sister. How did they show their love for Auggie? How does your family show love for you? How do you show love for them?
6. When Miranda gave up her performance in the play so Via could do it, why did she do that? What did you think of the way Miranda ignored her best friend, Via, after she came back from camp? Why did she do that? How do you think that made Via feel? How would you feel if you were Via? What would you do in Via's place?
7. Auggie gets the award at the end of the school year. Does this seem realistic to you? How was Auggie different at the end of the year than he was at the beginning? What helped him change? How did some of the other students change, like Jack and Amos?

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, one of Mr. Browne's precepts on the board was to choose kindness over being right. Help us to always be kind to others. Help us to always say kind and caring things to others. Bless our families, Jesus, and let us always draw closer to you. Amen.

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