

SHOWMAN

Heroes of Scripture and Screen: Joseph and The Greatest Showman

After watching the movie, read these **questions** and the Bible passage and talk about them as a family. It's best to do this right after watching the movie but you can also do it in the next day or so. The conversation could take anywhere from 10-20 minutes but we hope that it sparks an interest in noticing and sharing God throughout your daily life.

A Moment to Remember: **Which moment in the movie did you like the most? Why?**

Read this passage from the Bible (Genesis 37:1, 9-11, 17, 19-20, 28; 42:5-7; 45:4-5, 7 NRSV):

Joseph... was shepherding the flock with his brothers; He had another dream, and told it to his brothers, saying, 'Look: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.' But when he told it... his father rebuked him, and said to him, 'What kind of dream is this that you have had? So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. So Joseph went after his brothers.... They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits and we shall see what will become of his dreams.' When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Thus the sons of Israel were among the other people who came to buy grain, for the famine had reached the land of Canaan. Now Joseph was governor over the land [of Egypt]; it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized the.... Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

*If you have the time, take a look at this Venn Diagram and talk about whether it lines up with how you interpret the scripture and the movie (or just skip to the rest of the **questions**):*

SNOWMAN

Barnum

Barnum leaves his family behind in pursuit of fame and fortune.

Barnum follows his dreams to create the greatest show on earth.

Barnum loses everything.

Both are dreamers and make something from their dreams.

Both realize that fame and fortune, power and prestige are nothing compared to belonging with your family.

Joseph

Joseph is cast away by his family and treated as though he were dead.

Joseph follows God's dream guidance and prepares for a famine.

Joseph gains immense power and prestige.

Theme in Scripture – Belonging:

Joseph can't even find belonging in his own family. Even though he rises quickly through the ranks in the court of Pharaoh, many still see him as little more than an outsider in Egypt. As a dream interpreter, Joseph is able to follow God's guidance in storing up food for a terrible famine. He saves Egypt and the people of the surrounding lands, including his brothers who come looking for food. Joseph gives his brothers a really hard time but ultimately is so overjoyed by the reunion and the news that he now has a little brother that he is unable to contain his joy for finding his family again. **What is it about family that propels Joseph beyond his troubled history with his brothers to see his whole journey as a gift from God?**

Theme on the Screen - Belonging:

Barnum is a dreamer, a lot like Joseph. He can imagine and see what for others is only fantasy. Yet, his true gift is to interpret those dreams so that they may become real. Joseph also had to learn to be someone who leads others into accomplishing dreams. What neither man realizes until late in life is that all this dream accomplishing is creating a new and better world for their families. Barnum didn't even realize that he had started a family not just with Charity and his daughters but also with Tom, Lettie, Philip, and the whole circus. He had created a place where they all belonged. More than that, he showed that any place where his new family didn't belong also didn't deserve their gifts and talents. Barnum lost his way when he started to measure his worth by possessions and ticket sales. **After Barnum "loses everything" what measurement does he learn to use for his true worth and the worth of those around him?**

The Scene that Says it All: **Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of belonging. Why?** (Is it when Lettie leads the circus into the party that had shut them out, or when the troupe finds Barnum and reminds him who his dream was for, or another scene?)

Bonus question: **What would your special talent be if you ran off to join the circus?**