

THE LION KING

Heroes of Scripture and Screen: John the Baptizer and The Lion King

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 (Matthew 3:1-11, 13, 16-17 NRSV):

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." 'Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

*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**):*

John

Witness to God blessing Jesus.

Fight against a "brood of vipers."

Make the ultimate sacrifice for Jesus.

Live out in the wilderness and eat weird things.

Precede the savior figure.

Baptize/anoint the savior figure.

Become a follower of the savior figure.

Rafiki

Gave up hope on Simba.

Having to knock sense into Simba.

Witness some "peculiar weather" (AKA Mufasa in the clouds) giving Simba a harsh lesson.

Kungfu some hyenas.

Theme in Scripture – New Life:

John's words may seem a bit harsh—especially with him talking about burning up trees with fire—but John is also talking about God creating new life. Jesus is the key to that new life. After trees burn down, new trees grow from their ashes. John is trying to get the people ready for Jesus and all that Jesus will teach and show them. The theme of this Bible passage is new life. That's what baptism is all about too. **What does it mean for a person to be made new?**

Theme on the Screen – New Life:

Rafiki is the one who first announces the birth of Simba and predicts that he'll be a great king. He lives out in the wilderness, is covered in fur, and eats weird things. Does that sound familiar? Jesus never really strayed from his path of following God but Simba definitely strayed off of his path. Even though Scar had falsely accused Simba of causing the death of Mufasa when he was just a cub, Simba was afraid to confront the past and the truth when he grew up into a lion. Simba was stuck in the carefree yet immature world of Timon and Pumbaa and Hakuna Matata. We see that Timon and Pumbaa follow Simba into a world of responsibility and fulfillment when he is finally ready to lead them there. **What does Rafiki do, or what does Rafiki say, to help Simba find a new chapter in his life and get back on the right path?**

The Scene that Says it All: Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of renewal. Why? (Is it when Rafiki shows Simba his reflection, or when the Prideland regrows, or another scene?)

Bonus question: What's the best song in The Lion King? (Sing it!)