

# Heroes of Scripture and Screen:

## The Apostles and Remember the Titans

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 (Acts 15:6-11 NRSV):*

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

*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**):*

### The Apostles

Creating a church that includes Jews and gentiles.

Appreciating that the family of God is bigger than they realized.

Spreading the Good News of Jesus.

Leaders who are doing something for the first time.

Have to learn to work together or fail.

Not erasing what makes them different but appreciating what is unique about each other.

### The Coaches

Integrating a High School football program.

Realizing how far some people's racism and hatred will go and working to overcome it.

Educating youth.

### **Theme in Scripture – Courage:**

This Bible passage is the conclusion of a debate between Peter—Jesus’ disciple—and James—Jesus’ brother. Both James and Peter have become important leaders in this brand-new thing called church. They are apostles. Their dispute is over whether followers of Jesus have to follow the strict Jewish laws passed down from the time of Moses, or whether they can also be gentiles, or people who come from outside that tradition and its laws. In the past Jesus would have solved this dispute, or never let it happen in the first place. But the apostles have to figure it out on their own because Jesus has ascended to heaven. Eventually, what they figure it is that Jesus has actually already solved this dispute for them too. He taught them that God looks to their hearts. Jesus has made all people part of God’s family. The Jews and gentiles alike just want to love Jesus. **What kind of courage does it take to join a group of people as an outsider? What kind of courage does it take to give up some of your traditions to include more people in your group?**

### **Theme on the Screen – Courage:**

Early in the movie Coach Boone tells the people who have gathered to cheer him on that he is no Jesus Christ, he’s a football coach. That is definitely true. Like the apostles, the coaches in the movie have as many failures as successes. The movie is not about football magically fixing racism in a town. The movie is about leaders in a town overcoming their own prejudice and pride to fix a football team. It takes a lot of courage. Sometimes that courage fails, like when Yoast fails to call out the racism of the parents and players who plan to boycott the team. Boone sometimes lets his pride get in the way of working together with Yoast. Eventually it’s the players coming together that convinces the coaches to truly come together. **What are some examples of the everyday courage that the black characters in the movie showed?**

**The Scene that Says it All:** **Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of courage. Why?** *(Is it when the players and other black students walk past the angry mobs outside their newly-integrated school, or when Boone defies the threats to his family and career, or when Yoast gives up his chance to be in the hall of fame to confront the cheating referees, or when Gerry stands up to the prejudice of his girlfriend and friends, or another scene?)*

**Bonus question:** **Have you ever been to Gettysburg? What do you know about the place and what it represents?**