

Heroes of Scripture and Screen:

Mary and Joseph & Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

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 (Luke 1: 30-32, 38, 46-48, 51-55 NRSV):

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

[a little while later]

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

*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**):*

Mary & Joseph

Mary and Joseph do a fine job raising Jesus.

Mary especially prepares her heart and soul for Jesus' destiny as the messiah.

A baby is dropped into the lives of both sets of parents.

Jesus grows into the true embodiment of his real father's love, while Harry learns from his friends to live up to the love his true parents showed to him.

The Dursleys

The Dursleys are some of the worst parents you can imagine.

The Dursleys do everything in their power to keep Harry from Hogwarts and his destiny.

Theme in Scripture – Family Love:

Here's a little background for setting the scene of Jesus' birth. There is no evil "dark lord" like Voldemort. In reality, there is something far worse. Judea/Israel is ruled by the brutal Roman Empire. The Romans brought innovations like aqueducts, courts, and highways but little of these advantages trickled down to non-citizens like Jesus and his family. What's more, the governor that the Romans support in the region—Herod—ruthlessly covets his power to the point where the rumors of Jesus' birth are enough for Herod to kill the first-born baby boys of the land. There is not much hope in this time and place for the people. But angels start to appear. They promise a new king who is not only the messiah but also literally the son of God, and hope explodes onto the scene. **What form does God's love take in the scripture passage? What form does Mary's love take in this passage? How are they connected?**

Theme on the Screen – Family Love:

Jesus is God's son and has Mary and Joseph for parents. Harry Potter is Lily and James's son but also has the Dursleys for parents. From what we can tell, Mary and Joseph are great parents. To say that the Dursleys are not, is an understatement. Dumbledore, McGonagall, and Hagrid drop onto the scene with a baby and the Dursleys are far from pleased. There is no love in the way they treat Harry and they do not receive Harry as the gift he should be in their lives. Yet, Harry is received into the wizarding world as a gift, as the "boy who lived." He learns more and more about the world of magic and all its wonders, as well as the menace that still hangs over that world from the reign of Voldemort. **As Harry learns more about his parents, what do we learn about their love for him? What form does the love of Lily and James Potter take?**

The Scene that Says it All: Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of family love. Why? (Is it when Hagrid first tells Harry about his parents, or when Harry stands before the Mirror of Erised, or when Dumbledore explains how Harry won, or another scene?)

Bonus question: Which Hogwarts house do you wish you would be sorted into? Why? Which house would the Sorting Hat actually put you in? Why?