

Heroes of Scripture and Screen:

Jesus and E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial

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 (Mark 16:9-12, 15-19 NRSV):

Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.' So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

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):

E.T.

E.T. brings hope to Elliott and his family and friends by making them believe in the impossible.

E.T. brings heals the family by bringing them together.

Both have abilities that seem otherworldly.

E.T. and Jesus heal people's physical hurts.

They both bring joy to places defined by pain.

They both defy death.

Jesus

Jesus brings hope to his followers by achieving the impossible.

Jesus gives his followers a movement of love that will change the entire world.

Jesus is healing the whole world—the whole universe.

THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL

Theme in Scripture – Healing and Hope:

Jesus has just risen from the dead. He is telling people and showing people and only Mary seems to believe. Jesus is understandably frustrated by his disciples' inability to grasp what is happening. He is trying to get them to understand that his ministry and his teaching, and now his death and resurrection, are just the beginning. Jesus' impatience is really the urgency that comes out of his knowledge that he is about to leave the disciples again, to carry on his teachings and ministry themselves. He needs them to get what's happening. The miracles they have witnessed and will soon accomplish themselves are actually beside the point that his love has overcome the greatest obstacles in existence—sin and death—and that if they can just believe and trust in that love he will always be right beside them. Jesus is healing their despondent hearts by restoring their hope in him. **How would you describe the emptiness that the disciples felt when Jesus died, and how was that emptiness filled up?**

Theme on the Screen – Healing and Hope:

After E.T. seems to die, Elliott's life seems saved but he has lost something of immeasurable value, hope. Throughout the movie, E.T. is a wonder to those who meet him but he himself is lost. He gives his new friends an electrifying hope in the impossible but he must also find the hope that he can and will return home. When E.T. ascends into space he leaves his companions forever changed, with their hope restored. When Jesus ascends into heaven he leaves his disciples forever changed, with their hope restored and ready to take on the mission of forever changing others too. Jesus is the healer of the entire universe, but E.T. is pretty impressive too—a healer of both body and soul for his friends. **What is the sickness in the souls of Elliott and his family or even of "Keys" and his minions that E.T. is healing? What in their lives had been empty and is now filled up?**

The Scene that Says it All: **Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of healing and hope. Why?** *(Is it when the bicycles take flight, or when E.T. touches Elliott's forehead, or another scene?)*

Bonus question: **If you were a friendly alien being enticed into a strange kid's home, what candy or other treat would work to draw you in?**