

HOME LEARNING ENQUIRY – FAITH AND FILM



PART 1 – An introduction to film

1. What is your favourite film?
2. Why?
3. Why do we watch films?
4. What is their purpose?

PART 2 – Analysis of a film

Pick any film that is rated **12A or lower**. You should consider the religious themes contained within it eg
 sacrifice – when one character gives up something for another
 eg forgiveness – when a character does something wrong and wants to put it right
 eg religious ceremonies like baptism marriage or funerals
 eg afterlife – what happens after a person dies
 eg faith/belief – putting your trust in something or someone
 eg sin/disobedience – doing something wrong or harmful
 eg confession – admitting to doing things wrong

(AN EXAMPLE HAS BEEN DONE FOR YOU, ON THE NEXT PAGE, WITH THE LION KING).

1. Main characters
2. Overview of the story
3. Religious themes found in the story

PART 3 – Essay - Films are the best way to teach people about Christianity

Using your own ideas and points from the table below you should try to answer the question by:

1. Write a paragraph showing that using films **would** be a good way of teaching people about religion. (Remember to make a point, explain it, support it with an example and then say what you think about the argument.)
2. Write a paragraph showing that using films **would not** be a good way of teaching people about religion. (Remember to make a point, explain it, support it with an example and then say what you think about the argument.)
3. What might be a better way of teaching people about Christianity? Explain your ideas

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| Some storylines in films may be exaggerated to make them 'more appealing' to the general viewer eg characters and details are added that weren't in the original. This means the truth gets lost. | Artistic license means that people who know little, or nothing, about Jesus may see one particular representation of him and live with a false idea of what he is like (e.g. Jesus in <i>South Park</i>) |
| People who know little, or nothing, about Christianity may see a religious film, not understand it and be put-off. | People from other religions, or none, are able to learn about Christianity. This is important in a multicultural world. |
| Films offers an easy way to make fun of religion (e.g. the <i>Borat</i> movie, <i>The Life of Brian</i> .) | Films often get the whole family talking and so can open up discussions about religion. |
| May encourage people who feel intimidated by religion to see that it <i>is</i> 'normal' and they may begin going to Church. | People may base their opinion of religion on what others say about the film and not even bother to watch it themselves. |
| Can help those who cannot get to Church to engage with their faith. | Films can bring to life religious stories, which some children and adults may otherwise find 'boring'. |
| Makes the religion seem more relevant and interesting. | Films can reach a far bigger audience than individual churches can. More people get to know about the religion. |