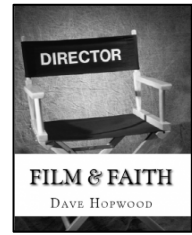




## 100 Movie Moments [compiled by Dave Hopwood 2013]

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For more in-depth discussion material please try [www.davehopwood.com/blogs/big-screen-theology](http://www.davehopwood.com/blogs/big-screen-theology).

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## **100 Movie Moments**

### **1. In the movie *Miracle on 34th Street*...**

Kriss Kringle, a.k.a. Santa Claus, is doing his stuff in a big department store. Parents are bringing their children to him, to tell him their Christmas lists. One mother brings her daughter, but when he starts to talk to her, the little girl's mother stops him and explains that she is deaf, and he need not try and communicate with her, she just wanted to see him. Kriss looks carefully at her, thinks for a moment, then smiles. He begins to speak to her using sign language. She smiles and replies. They talk for a while and then end up signing *Jingle Bells* together.

**It's a great** moment about crossing boundaries, and reaching out to others.

**Themes:** God's desire to communicate with us

**Bible:** Hebrews 1 vv 1-3

## 2. In the movie *Home Alone*...

Kevin has been banished to the attic for being rude to his family the day before they fly off to Paris for Christmas. In his anger he wishes that his whole family will disappear. The next morning the family wake late and have a mad dash to the airport to catch their plane in time. As Kevin's mum finally flops down into her aeroplane seat she sighs, 'Hope we didn't forget anything.' Back home Kevin is just waking up, They did forget something. Kevin.

**It's a great** moment that mirrors the story of Jesus the boy left behind in Jerusalem.

**Themes:** Jesus left in the Temple as a boy

**Bible:** Luke 2 vv 41-52

## 3. In the movie *Enemy of the State*...

Robert Dean is a happy successful married lawyer. But all that falls apart when he meets an old friend who secretly hides a computer disc amongst Robert's Christmas shopping. The disc contains incriminating footage of a political assassination. So Robert becomes a target. The National Security Agency wants that disc back, and they'll stop at nothing to track Robert down. They bug his house, his clothes, his watch, everything. He loses his job and all his credit cards get cancelled. Robert is on the run, and being hunted by NSA agents using all the very best technology available. Everywhere he goes he is watched and it seems as if there is no way out. Agents are secreted in nearby vehicles and buildings and some even on the ground as tramps and shoppers. This is a major surveillance operation. Everything Robert does now is being watched and taped.

**It's a great** parable about who might be watching us.

**Themes:** Is God always present and monitoring us? If so, what does that mean? Big brother or kind father?

**Bible:** Luke 18 vv 1-8, Psalm 103 vv 8-14

## 4. In the movie *Monty Python's Life of Brian*...

Brian and his mum are off to a stoning. It's a local boy so they reckon it should be good. They discover that the accused is on trial for saying the name of Jehovah. In his defence the poor man claims all he said was, 'This halibut is fit for Jehovah.' But this is not good enough. It is totally forbidden to utter the name of Jehovah aloud, and anyone doing so must be stoned. After much debate and heckling from the crowd, and several false starts, the priest in charge gets stoned because he utters the forbidden name of Jehovah himself.

**It's a great** example of misunderstanding the nature of God.

**Themes:** Fear of upsetting God, the compassion of God, what does it mean to honour God

**Bible:** Psalm 103 vv 11-14, John 3 v 17, 1 John 3 v 1

## 5. In the movie *The Killing Fields*...

Following the takeover of Cambodia by the Communist Khmer Rouge in 1975, journalist Dith Pran now lives in a labour camp in the forest. His days are filled with long hours of work, and in the evenings he attends the re-education

classes. He explains how the Party indoctrinates everyone, and that they now live under the all-powerful Angka. Angka is all that matters now. The people must not think about life before the revolution. God is dead and now the Party will provide all they need. There are enemies everywhere and they can trust no one. They must only love Angka, they must only think of the Party. Although people starve they must not grow food. They are indoctrinated all the time. They must have no past. There is only year zero. Dith must show no understanding, no emotion, no intelligent thinking. He must pretend he is just a lowly peasant worker. Calls are often given out for former teachers, students, professors – anyone who is educated– to come forward. But when they do they are never seen again.

**It's a tragic** example of the way people hurt and control each other.

**Themes:** Power, humility, corruption, compassion

**Bible:** Daniel 3 vv 1-7 and vv 19-22, John 13 vv 13-17, Luke 23 vv 1-12

## **6. In the movie *Payback*...**

Hard-man Porter lies on a table in a filthy kitchen while a whiskey soaked doctor removes the bullets from his back. We hear Porter's voice telling us about himself. His wife and his friend stole \$70,000 from him and tried to kill him. But he has survived and he wants his money back. So now he will get even with them. In a gravelly payback kind of voice, he says: 'They say time heals all wounds, and you'd think after five months of lying on my back I would have given up any idea of getting even. Just be a nice guy. Call it a day. Nice guys are fine – but they always finish last.'

**It's a story** which raises the whole issue of revenge.

**Themes:** Revenge, forgiveness

**Bible:** Mark 5 vv 38-42, Leviticus 19 vv 16-18

## **7. In the movie *Monsters Inc.*...**

Monstropolis is a place full of scary creatures. Every night the monsters sneak into children's bedrooms and scare them. However, in reality it is the monsters who are scared, they fear any real contact with the children and when one little girl, Boo, sneaks into Monstropolis all chaos breaks loose. Sully and Mike whisk Boo away and hide her in their apartment trying to limit the damage she might inflict by cornering and controlling her. When Boo starts to scream there is a power surge in the apartment block and a nearby helicopter swoops by to investigate. In order to stop the screaming Sully starts to entertain Boo – and then something astonishing happens. Boo starts to laugh and there is another power surge. But this one is so big it blows all the fuses in the building. 'What was that?' asks Sully, amazed. 'I don't know,' says Mike, 'But don't make her do it again.' What Sully and the other Monsters don't realise is that laughter generates more power than screams.

**It's a great** example of the power of humour.

**Themes:** Humour, laughter, the way Jesus communicated with funny stories and anecdotes

**Bible:** Mark 4 vv 33-34, Psalm 126 vv 1-2, Genesis 21 vv 1-7, Jeremiah 33 vv 10-11

## **8. In the movie *Finding Neverland*...**

It is the opening night of J M Barrie's new play, Peter Pan. No one knows whether this childish story will capture the audience, and the theatre owner has massive doubts. J M Barrie has the inspired idea of saving twenty-five spare seats, dotted around the theatre for some special guests. On the evening these guests turn out to be orphans. Not wealthy, not used to going to the theatre. But these orphans set the audience alight. From the outset they are caught up with the magic of the story and they bring the rest of the sophisticated audience along with them. Bemused

businessmen and pompous ladies of leisure are quickly transformed into mesmerised viewers, caught up with the wonder of this enchanting tale.

**It's a great** scene that illustrates the way children and the 'small' people can open our eyes.

**Themes:** The parable of the wedding banquet, the good news crosses boundaries

**Bible:** Matthew 22 vv 1-14, Matthew 21 vv 14-16, Psalm 8 v 2

### **9. In the movie *Air Force One*...**

On a flight home from Russia the American President's plane is hijacked. The rest of the president's party, including his wife and daughter, are taken hostage. The hijackers threaten to kill one person every half hour until their demands are met. However, the president has escaped capture and is roaming free on the aircraft. He is also an experienced and very capable ex-soldier, so the kidnappers are in for a surprise. From his place in hiding the president works secretly to free the hostages.

**It's a great** parable about the unseen God who continues to work in the background.

**Themes:** God is closer than we think

**Bible:** Genesis 32 vv 22-32, Genesis 3 vv 8-21, Genesis 11 vv 1-9

### **10. In the movie *Hancock*...**

Superhero John Hancock is in trouble. He has incredible strength and extraordinary supernatural abilities, but he also has a drink problem and an anger problem. He continues to rescue people but whenever he does he destroys property and causes all kinds of problems. When he stops a traffic jam being destroyed by a train he derails the train and causes it to have a massive pile up, destroying trees and property. 'All you people blocking the intersection are idiots,' he tells those he has just saved. He is not popular.

**It's a striking** example of gifts being misused.

**Themes:** Samson, the dangers of the gifts of the spirit without the fruits

**Bible:** Galatians 5 vv 22-23

### **11. In the movie *About Time* ...**

Tim discovers he can travel through time. His father tells him that all the men in his family are able to do this. So he embarks on a romantic adventure to secure himself a girlfriend. Towards the end of the story he makes this comment, 'We're all travelling through time together, every day of our lives. All we can do - is do our best to relish this remarkable ride.'

**It's a great** quote about the challenge of appreciating life.

**Themes:** Living wisely, living well, appreciating the good things in life and each other

**Bible:** Ephesians 5 v 16, Ephesians 4 vv 31-32

### 12. In the movie *Fast Girls...*

Shania Andrews comes up from the streets and ends up running in the world athletic championships. It's a dream for her and she trains hard to achieve her goal. She joins the sprint relay team, but this is a challenge for her. The discipline and cooperation required do not come easy. She has to work hard to keep her place in the squad. However when she deviates from this, her performance falters and she has to pick herself up and start again.

**It's a useful** example about life and faith being something that requires dedication and energy.

**Themes:** The race of life, the challenge of faith and discipleship

**Bible:** 1 Corinthians 9 vv 24-27, 2 Timothy 2 v 5, Philippians 3 v 14

### 13. In the movie *Elysium...*

It's the year 2154 and most of the population live on a ruined version of planet earth. They are given the leftovers of this world. The privileged live on Elysium. A man-made space station where life is rich and healthy. When those on earth make attempts to fly to Elysium they are destroyed. But Max attempts a mission to bring the two worlds together. He risks everything to infiltrate Elysium so that its benefits are available to all.

**It's a great** parable about the continuing divide between rich and poor, and the call to cross divides and bridge gaps.

**Themes:** Rich and poor, the Incarnation, Jesus crossing divides to bring the riches of the kingdom of heaven

**Bible:** Philippians 2 v 5-11, Ephesians 3 vv 6-7

### 14. In the movie *Rush...*

Formula one racing driver Niki Lauda crashes in the 1976 German Grand Prix and is rushed to hospital with severe burns and damage to his lungs. His condition is very serious. However, Niki Lauda refuses to give up. He hangs on to life and more than this, battles his way back to health. Just six weeks later he is back on the track, racing once again, driven on by his dedication and ambition.

**It's an incredible** story of endurance and perseverance.

**Themes:** Perseverance, endurance, priorities, commitment

**Bible:** 1 Timothy 6 vv 11-12, Luke 22 vv 41-45, Hebrews 12 vv 1-3

### 15. In the movie *12 years a Slave...*

Slave owner Edwin Epps offers his friend Bass a drink while he works in the sun. Bass smiles and refuses. He says that he means to finish the work at hand, as requested and paid for. Bass points out that Epps is concerned for his wellbeing, but not the wellbeing of his black workers. Epp replies, 'They ain't hired help, they're my property.' Bass says, 'You say that with pride.' Epp replies, 'I say that as fact.' So Bass says, 'If this conversation concerns what is factual and what is not, then it must be said, that there is no justice, nor righteousness in this slavery.'

**It's a shocking** example of people taking advantage of others.

**Themes:** Slavery, in Jesus all people are equal

**Bible:** Colossians 3 v 11, Leviticus 26 v 13

### 16. In the movie *The Way...*

Tom takes his son Daniel to the airport so he can go travelling and begin walking the Camino de Santiago, the Way of St James. Whilst they drive together Daniel tells his father he should come and fly with him. But Tom says that he can't. Not everyone can just take off like that. Tom says that his life may not seem much to his son, but it's the life he chose. Daniel replies, 'You don't choose a life dad, you live one.'

**Themes:** Life in all its fullness

**Bible:** John 10 v 10, Psalm 16 v 11, Proverbs 21 v 21

### 17. In the movie *The Debt...*

In 1965 Rachel, Stephan and David planned to kidnap a Nazi war criminal in Berlin and bring him to trial. Years later Rachel's daughter publishes her account of the story, and when she speaks at the book launch she says of her mother and the two men, 'These three dared to relive Israel's greatest nightmare, and in the simple act of facing the monster they helped to vanquish it.'

**It's a striking** quote about facing the hard things.

**Themes:** Facing problems, fears and worries, David facing Goliath

**Bible:** Philippians 4 vv 6-7, 1 Samuel 17. Isaiah 54 v 10, Isaiah 43 vv 1-2, Joshua 1 v 8-9

### 18. In the movie *The Help...*

In 1960s Mississippi young journalist Skeeter Phelan decides to write the truth about the nature of life as a maid in the family homes. However, the maids or 'Helps' are reluctant to open up about their lives. Then eventually one of the maids Aibileen starts talking to her. As a result Aibileen loses her job, and has to say goodbye to the little girl she is raising. As she walks away she says, 'No one ever asked me what it felt like to be me, once I told the truth about that - I felt free.'

**It's a stirring** example about standing up for truth and justice.

**Themes:** The truth that sets us free, the cost of doing the right thing

**Bible:** John 8 v 31, Proverbs 22 vv 17-21, Psalm 45 v 4, Micah 6 v 8

### 19. In the movie *Much Ado About Nothing...*

The men come back from war, battles ready for a celebration. They wash and change and prepare for the party they will have. The women see them coming and they wash and change too. The grime and the muck of the past days are washed off. They are fresh and clean and fit for the feast. There is laughter, love and celebration in the air.

**It's a great** scene of washing away the dirt and throwing off the old, then happily moving into the new.

**Themes:** New life in Jesus, a new beginning, the old washed away, the heavenly wedding feast

**Bible:** Zechariah 3 vv 1-5, 2 Corinthians 5 v 17, Isaiah 65 vv 17-25



### 20. In the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean – The Curse of the Black Pearl...*

Jack Sparrow is about to be hung. The charges are read and the noose hangs above him. Then suddenly Will Turner steps out of the crowd. In a sudden rush of courage he rushes through the throng to rescue Jack. The two of them battle the soldiers and end up cornered. But Will still won't give up. If he is to be killed then so be it. He is in the right place. Standing up for Jack and standing against the injustice of the situation. Together they battle on and break through.

**It's a great** scene about battling with others for what you believe to be right.

**Themes:** Standing up for what is right

**Bible:** Isaiah 42 vv 1-4 and v 13, Matthew 25 vv 34-40, Romans 12 vv 9-13

### 21. In the movie *The Illusionist...*

The magician Eisenheim impresses the people with his magic and they flock to see him. Where does his power come from? Is he just a clever illusionist, or is there more at work? The Crown Prince is a rationalist and not impressed. But the ordinary people love it and want to believe. Jesus was no magician, his power came from his father in heaven, and the ordinary people flocked to him. But others, the powerful ones, were not impressed.

**It's a story** about the hunger of ordinary people for something more. And the powerful feeling threatened by this.

**Themes:** Jesus, his power, and his compassion for ordinary people

**Bible:** Mark 12 v 37b

### 22. In the movie *The Shawshank Redemption...*

Though he has been wrongly imprisoned in Shawshank prison Andy has a vision. He wants to make things better. He wants to get more books for the prison library, and so decides to write a letter every week to the prison authorities asking for funds. Against the odds they send some books and some money, along with a letter asking him to stop badgering them with his letters. 'Only took 6 years,' he says, 'from now on I'll write two letters a week...'

**It's a great** example of not giving up.

**Themes:** Perseverance

**Bible:** Proverbs 29 v 18, 2 Thessalonians 3 v 13, 1 Timothy 6 vv 1-12

### 23. In the movie *American Gangster...*

Richie Roberts is an honest cop. One day he makes a bust and uncovers a huge haul of stolen cash. Instead of keeping a little of it for himself he ensures that the whole stash is placed in police custody. Word travels and he becomes notorious for this. Some can hardly believe it, other cops are not happy with him for doing what's right. But some folks admire and respect him. Years later, when he arrests top American gangster Frank Lucas, Frank says to Richie, 'I was talking to my lawyers. They said something to me, I can't believe it. Did you really find a million dollars in the trunk of a car, then turn it in?' Richie says that yes, he did. So Frank asks him why he did that. And Richie replies, 'It was the right thing to do.'

**It's a great** example of doing right though it goes against the grain.

**Themes:** Our actions often speak louder than words, doing good can make you unpopular

**Bible:** Ephesians 4 v 28, Deuteronomy 25 vv 14-15, Proverbs 28 v 10

#### **24. In the movie *Seven Pounds...***

Ben Thomas seeks out others he can help in extraordinary ways. When he discovers Connie and her children are in danger from her abusive partner he tells her to drive away from the city and to go to a house on the coast. When she and her children get there they explore the house and its beautiful setting. She finds a letter and some documents on the table. The house belongs to Ben, but once she signs her name on the contract it will belong to Connie. He has given it to them as a safe, new home so they can start again.

**It's an extraordinary** example of generosity and practical caring.

**Themes:** Generosity, compassion, sacrifice

**Bible:** Acts 2 vv 44-45, Acts 4 vv 32, 36-37

#### **25. In the movie *Children of Men...***

No baby has been born for 18 years. Then a young pregnant mother gives birth to a miracle child in a bombed out tenement building. Outside the world is at war but she needs to get the baby to a safe place. Her friend Theo helps her take the child down the stairs, past the crowds of incredulous people and out of the building. On the way peace breaks out. Soldiers stop firing and stare in amazement, some of them even kneel and cross themselves.

**It's a useful** clip for seeing Christmas with fresh eyes.

**Themes:** Christmas, peace on earth, Jesus comes into a harsh world, God takes risks

**Bible:** Luke 1 vv 26-35, Isaiah 9 vv 6-7

#### **26. In the movie *American History X...***

Derek is a violent man and a harsh racist, intent on hurting others. He is jailed for manslaughter after killing two men. His time in prison affects him deeply and he comes out a changed man. He wants to start his life again, to live differently now. When he is released on parole he tells his younger brother Danny about his experience, to try and stop him from following the same violent path as Derek and ending up in terrible trouble. 'It's wrong,' Derek tells him, 'and it was eating me up, and it was going to kill me... I killed two guys Danny, I killed 'em and it didn't make me feel any different, it just got me more lost.'

**It's a great** story of transformation.

**Themes:** Conversion, repentance, change of direction

**Bible:** Luke 15 v 10, Luke 6 vv 47-48

#### **27. In the movie *The Beach...***

Bored with his existence Richard decides to go looking for something more. His life isn't enough. He wants danger and beauty, he wants to live. So he breaks free, jumps on a plane and travels to a foreign land. There he finds a map which leads him to place full of others who are searching for more. An island paradise which is home to a community of prodigals hungry for another way of life. 'Ever get the feeling that you have to get away from it all?' Richard asks us at the start of the film. 'When the life you have just isn't enough? You go to college, get a job, and one day you wake up

and realise it'll be like this till the day you die. And there's a whole world out there you haven't seen. So I'm gone. I'm outa here. I'm in search of something different.'

**It's a fascinating** tale of a prodigal son who goes looking for adventure and finds more than he bargained for.

**Themes:** The prodigal son, the search for more, why do the prodigals leave?

**Bible:** Luke 15 vv 11-13

### **28. In the movie *Good Morning Vietnam...***

Adrian Cronauer turns up as the new DJ for Armed Forces Radio during the Vietnam War. His zany style appeals to the troops in the field but causes him to fall foul of those in authority, who feel threatened. Adrian speaks the language of the ordinary soldier, his humour connects with them, and that's his problem. When he does a mock interview with President Nixon the officer in charge shuts him down. 'We need to consider taking him off the air,' he tells the high-ups, 'the man has irreverent tendencies.'

**It's a useful** clip for demonstrating the way one man can rock the establishment.

**Themes:** Jesus connects with ordinary people

**Bible:** Mark 2 vv 15-16, Mark 12 v 37b

### **29. In the movie *The Book of Eli...***

Eli is transporting a sacred book across a post-apocalyptic land. He protects it with his life. When he reaches a safe haven he tells them he has brought the book for them to keep. They ask to see it so Eli asks for a large pile of paper and a pen. They sit down at a table and Eli starts to talk. 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...' he says. The book is not written down, he has memorised it. He is carrying it within him. Eli has absorbed the words and now recites them for committing to paper.

**It's a great** illustration of someone carrying God's word within them.

**Themes:** The living word of God, the kingdom within us, the words of eternal life

**Bible:** Joshua 1 v 8, Colossians 3 v 16, Luke 17 vv 20-21

### **30. In the movie *Dan in Real Life...***

Dan is depressed. When he takes his youngsters bowling the place is shut, so they go and see a lighthouse instead. Dan tells them that 'when you're out there and being tossed back and forth by the big, dark waves and you think that you'll never feel land again. And you think you'll just split into a million pieces and sink down, way down deep, it's the light that keeps us on course.'

**It's a great** quote about the light that can guide us through a storm.

**Themes:** Light of the world, guidance, help in trouble

**Bible:** Matthew 4 v 16, John 8 v 12, Matthew 5 vv 14-15, Psalm 112 v 4, Isaiah 9 v 2

### 31. In the movie *Blade Runner*...

In 2019 artificial human beings, known as replicants, are seen as a threat and must be hunted down. Deckard is a cop whose job it is to track down these replicants. In his fight to capture replicant Roy Batty Deckard almost falls to his death, but Batty rescues him saying, 'Quite an experience to live in fear, isn't it? That's what it is to be a slave.' In the end it is Batty who dies and just before he bows his head and slips away Batty says, 'I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion. I watched c-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhäuser Gate. All those moments will be lost in time, like tears in rain. Time - to die.' Batty opens Deckard's eyes to a world of mythical size and wonder. The very language he uses and the style of his delivery makes it all seem dangerous and wonderful. There are things out there we just can't imagine. Batty gives us a brief glimpse of something bigger. Something 'other'.

**It's a great** reminder that there is more to this world than all we can see, a reminder that there is another reality.

**Themes:** The mystery and awesome nature of God and his creation

**Bible:** Job 38 & 39, Psalm 104, Revelation 12

### 32. In the movie *Catch Me If You Can*...

Frank W Abagnale is a conman. Later in life, when his parents split up, he ran away from home and little by little eased himself into a life of crime, fraud and deception. Earlier in life, when Frank moves to a new school, he arrives nervous and tense and immediately feels out of place. He enters his first classroom and is mocked by some of the students, so he walks to the board, chalks his name up and announces loudly how it is pronounced. He then hurries the kids to their seats and begins to conduct their French lesson. A week later his parents are called in when it finally comes to light that Frank is in trouble. Not because he has been skiving, but because he has been masquerading as a French teacher. He has already organised a parent/teacher consultation and was planning a trip to a French bread factory.

When his parents emerge from the headmaster's office his mother looks shaken, but his father glances at him and cracks a smile. He's a chip off the old block.

**It's a useful** illustration about a trickster, like the Biblical Jacob.

**Themes:** Jacob the cheat, deception, honesty

**Bible:** Genesis 27 vv 1-40

### 33. In the movie *24 Hour Party People*...

Tony Wilson has a vision of God whilst smoking drugs. With his friends He has a conversation with him about music, the main thing in Tony's life. Afterwards, when his friends ask him what God looked like, Tony says, 'He looked like me. God made man in his own image. If you'd have seen him he'd have looked like you.'

**It's a great** comic moment that points back to the creator who is interested in us.

**Themes:** Made in God's image, visions, God the creator, God interested in us

**Bible:** Genesis 1 vv 26-27, Jeremiah 1 vv 4-5

### 34. In the movie *Cinema Paradiso*...

Toto is a young boy who loves the cinema in his small home town in Italy. He forms a friendship with the projectionist Alfredo and often helps him out. When the cinema is packed one night and the street is full of those

outside who cannot come in, Alfredo the projectionist has an idea. He projects the film onto a building opposite, so that no one is excluded. He liberates the movie for everyone to see, even the outsiders...

**It's a great** illustration about taking something good and making it available to everyone.

**Themes:** Jesus took God's kingdom out onto the streets, he liberated forgiveness and grace from the temple

**Bible:** Matthew 11 vv 2-5

### 35. In the movie *Waking Ned...*

Young Maurice asks the local priest if he's ever seen Jesus. Father Patrick says no. Maurice asks if he gets paid for working for Jesus. The priest tells him that it's more a kind of spiritual payment. Young Maurice thinks about this. When the priest asks him if he might be drawn to work for the church one day, Maurice says, 'I don't think that I could ever work for someone I've never met and not get paid for it.'

**It's a great** example of the way children are curious and speak their minds.

**Themes:** Honesty, children, questions, telling the truth

**Bible:** Mark vv 29-30, Psalm 8 v 2, Matthew 12 vv 15-16

### 36. In the movie *Casino Royale...*

James Bond is trying to catch the bad guy, Mollacha, leaping after him from roof to roof. Mollacha is adept at the chase, but Bond keeps slipping and falling and bumping into things. Mollacha never puts a foot wrong, but Bond is all over the place. However, he does not give up. No matter how many times he falls, he gets back up...

**It's a great** illustration for encouraging folks to not give up, even if they are not the best at something.

**Themes:** Perseverance, making mistakes, running the race of faith, Peter walking on water

**Bible:** Romans 5 v 3-4, Matthew 14 vv 28-32

### 37. In the movie *Just Like Heaven...*

Elizabeth is invisible to everyone but David. Trying to discover why, they visit a restaurant. When a customer collapses she suddenly realises she can help. She guides David through doing a minor op, him repeating everything she says. No one else can see or hear her, so the situation is strange and entertaining. When she tells him to ask for some alcohol to wash the wound, he does so, but takes a swig himself to calm his nerves. As he finishes the operation, she suddenly exclaims, 'I'm a doctor!' So he shouts it out too.

**It's a great** and humorous illustration about guidance.

**Themes:** Guidance, hearing the voice of God, the difficulty of discerning the way forward sometimes

**Bible:** John 16 vv 13-14, James 3 vv 17-18

### 38. In the movie *Shooting Dogs...*

When the UN trucks prepare to leave the school, abandoning the local Rwandans to the killing gangs, Christopher the priest tells his friend Joe that he cannot leave. He senses God is right there with those suffering people. His love more intense and profound than Christopher has ever felt before.

**It's a moving** example of one man having the courage and vision to see the presence of God and bear witness to that.

**Themes:** God and suffering, Jesus suffering for us, God understanding pain, fear, terror and loss

**Bible:** Romans 8 v 38, Isaiah 53 v 3

### 39. In the movie *Back to the Future...*

Huge bully Biff is attacking Lorraine in his car. The much smaller George McFly thinks that it is a plan he and his friend Marty have set up so he rushes over to help. However he gets a shock when he opens the door and sees Biff. Suddenly George is terrified and wants to flee. But he doesn't run, instead he stands his ground. When Biff climbs out of the car and attacks him George gathers his courage, swings his fist and brings him down with one blow.

**It's a great** modern version of David bringing down Goliath.

**Themes:** Facing bullies, facing fears and enemies, courage and fear

**Bible:** 1 Samuel 17 vv 41-51

### 40. In the movie *Contact...*

Eleanor experiences something extraordinary when she goes into space. She encounters another being and another world. However, on returning she cannot prove it. Instead, when questioned, she can only reply, 'I was given something wonderful that changed me forever... a vision that tells us we belong to something that's greater than ourselves and we are none of us alone.'

**It's a great** quote about identity, and the faith required to trust in things we cannot prove or see.

**Themes:** Faith, trust, identity, hope

**Bible:** Psalm 8 vv 3-5, 1 Corinthians 13 v 7, Hebrews 11 v 1

### 41. In the movie *About Schmidt...*

Warren and Helen have been married for 42 years. But lately newly retired Warren finds himself lying in bed at night wondering - who is this old woman who lives in my house? And why does she annoy him so much? With her annoying little habits - like getting the keys out of her bag long before they get to the car. Wasting their money on her toy and thimble collections and the way she discards perfectly good food just because it's expired...

**It's a useful** moment of reflection on marriage and lack of communication.

**Themes:** Marriage, commitment, relationships, communication, respect, understanding

**Bible:** Ephesians 5 v 25, Ephesians 4 v 32

### 42. In the movie *Joyeux Noel...*

Christmas Eve 1914 on the Western Front. When the Scottish troops sing a song of home the Germans reply with a rendition of *Silent Night*. Then one of the Germans places a Christmas tree above their trench. Gradually the soldiers on both sides emerge and meet in no man's land. It's an extraordinary risk in a place so recently dedicated to slaughter and killing. The two sides begin to talk, they show each other photos and swap gifts of chocolate. They play football and share communion. Against the odds peace breaks out...

**It's an extraordinary** true story of men putting aside violence in favour of goodwill and respect.

**Themes:** Peace on earth and goodwill to all men, Christmas, miracles, courage

**Bible:** Luke 2 vv 13-14. Isaiah 9 v 6, Isaiah 2 v 4

#### **43. In the movie *A Bridge Too Far*...**

Towards the end of World War 2 the allies drop thousands of paratroops in Holland to secure key bridges. In order to take the bridge at Nijmegen from both sides Major Cook must lead his men across the river in boats. They come under heavy gunfire as they try to cross the water. The major himself is rowing for all his might, using his rifle butt as an oar. Shells and bullets fly around him, men drop and die in the water. He keeps going, putting everything he's got into leading his men. And all the time he's praying. Calling out for God's help to get him through.

**It's a moment** of courage under fire, and of a tough, experienced, capable man asking for God's help to get him through a very difficult situation.

**Themes:** Men and their need for God, courage, leadership, risk

**Bible:** Psalm 40 v 1-2, Philippians 4 v 6

#### **44. In the movie *Starter for Ten*...**

Brian has blown it big time on National TV. His dream was to get on *University Challenge* and having done so he has made a huge public fool of himself. He flees university and hides at home. He cannot face anyone and only wants to give up. When he refuses to answer yet another phone call from his friends his mum says to him, 'Brian, the people who really care about you don't mind if you make mistakes, it's what you do next that matters.'

**It's a great** moment about someone picking themselves up and starting again.

**Themes:** Mistakes, recovering after failure,

**Bible:** Luke 22 vv 31-32, 2 Corinthians 12 v 9

#### **45. In the movie *Flushed Away*...**

Roddy and Rita are running from the bad guys. Rita coolly leaps from drainpipe to drainpipe to escape. But Roddy is not so cool. He jumps and everything goes wrong. He slips, falls and bashes every bit of himself in his catastrophic attempts to follow Rita. When he eventually lands in a heap he staggers up and says, 'And gently down.' Then he gets hit by a passing football. But in spite of this he still gets up again and carries on following.

**It's another** example of keeping going, persevering against the odds.

**Themes:** Dedication, perseverance, endurance

**Bible:** 2 Corinthians 4 vv 7-9, 1 Timothy 6 v 11

#### **46. In the movie *Amazing Grace*...**

William Wilberforce hosts a dinner party with his friend William Pitt the younger. Pitt has invited the guests so Wilberforce does not know all of them. In their discussion over the meal they tell him: 'We understand that you're having problems deciding whether to do the work of God, or the work of a political activist, we humbly suggest you

can do both.’ At another point in the film William Pitt says to Wilberforce, ‘Do you intend to use your beautiful voice to praise God or change the world?’

**Two great quotes** about the call to care about injustice in the world.

**Themes:** Justice, compassion, making a difference

**Bible:** Psalm 45 v 4, Isaiah 61 v 1

#### **47. In the movie *Bobby*...**

Samantha is insecure about herself, often comparing herself to others. When she asks her husband Jack which of the Kennedy wives she’s most like, Jackie or Ethel, he replies, ‘When do you feel like Samantha? You’re more than the shoes on your feet or the designer dress on your back’ You’re more than the purse you carry or the money inside. You and I are more than the stuff, more than the things in our lives. Somewhere between our things and our stuff is us.’

**It’s a great** moment that challenges our notion of value.

**Themes:** Identity, self-worth, materialism, consumerism

**Bible:** 1 John 3 v 1, Ephesians 1 v 4

#### **48. In the movie *The Adjustment Bureau*...**

David Norris stumbles upon another reality. He discovers that other forces are at work in the world, influencing his life and he never knew it. He has plans, but so do others, and one day when he walks into room he ‘sees behind a curtain that he was never supposed to know existed.’ The agents of the Adjustment Bureau are doing their best to steer him along their chosen path. In the trailer advertising this film the question is posed: ‘What if every choice you made was controlled by a higher plan?’

**It’s a great** movie for raising questions about freewill and God’s plans for us.

**Themes:** Freewill, guidance, discernment, God’s plans

**Bible:** Jeremiah 29 v 11, Ephesians 2 v 10

#### **49. In the movie *Love Actually*...**

The Prime Minister is looking for the one he loves. He leaves 10 Downing Street, travels to a street in Wandsworth and walks from door to door ringing the doorbells. Everyone is taken aback when they answer and they have to ask if it is really him. A group of little girls however, get him to sing carols while they do a dance. The Prime Minister and his people enjoy a series of unexpected encounters. ‘Aren’t you the Prime Minister?’ asks one lady. ‘Yes I am,’ he replies, ‘Merry christmas! Part of the service now. We’re trying to get round everyone by New Years Eve.’

**It’s a great** illustration about the way Jesus left his home in heaven to venture to earth to meet us.

**Themes:** The incarnation, Christmas, Jesus knocking at our doors, God in a different, unexpected guise

**Bible:** Revelation 3 v 20, Philippians 2 v 5-6, John 1 v 14



### 50. In the movie *The World's Fastest Indian...*

Burt Munroe is a motorbike enthusiast. One day he is challenged to a race against some local young guys on his old 1920 Indian Scout motorbike. They all line up on the beach and as the flag goes down the young guys zoom away, but Burt struggles to start. He calls to his friends for some help and they give him a push to get going. He powers past all the others as his bike quickly picks up speed. Then disaster strikes. As he turns to zoom back again, he corners too fast, crashes the bike and is thrown head over heels.

**It's a great** moment for illustrating Paul's analogy about life and faith being like a race.

**Themes:** Persevering when it's tough, starting again when things fall apart

**Bible:** Hebrews 12 v 1, 2 Corinthians 4 vv 7-9, 2 Cprinthians 12 v 9

### 51. In the movie *The Mission...*

Slave trader Rodrigo is haunted after killing his brother over a woman. Jesuit priest Father Gabriel goes to see him to try and pull him out of his depression. He tells him to haul the armour and weaponry of his slavetrading up a waterfall, as a symbol of his guilt. At the top the indigenous people he has been enslaving gather round him. Will they seek revenge and kill him? One of them comes close, brandishing a knife. But he doesn't cut Rogrigo's throat – he cuts him free. Rodrigo laughs and cries as his armour drops into the water way below, and his guilt too falls away.

**It's a great** example of the way people can be freed from the past.

**Themes:** Forgiveness, freedom, new starts

**Bible:** Isaiah 6 vv 5-8, Psalm 124 v 7, Luke 7 vv 47-48

### 52. In the movie *Pretty Woman...*

Rich businessman Richard hires a prostitute called Vivian for a night, but then unexpectdely falls in love with her. They spend a few romantic days together then they both return to their lives. However, when he reflects on his time with Vivian he changes his mind and drives to her apartment to 'rescue' her. In spite of being afraid fo heights he climbs her fire escape to meet her with a single red rose in his mouth. When he asks her what a girl rescued by a knight does, she replies, 'She rescues him right back...' However, he is a powerful buisnessman, she is a poor prostitute, they come from two different worlds. This relationship will take some working out...

**It's a great** parable about the bringing together of two worlds.

**Themes:** Relationship with God, learning his ways, God meets us in Jesus

**Bible:**Isaiah 55 vv 8-9, Isaiah 46 v 9

### 53. In the movie *The Dark Knight...*

Batman flees Gotham city, taking the blame for the murders committed by Harvey Dent. He realises he cannot be the hero that the people want. Instead he must become the villain, take the blame for the destruction in the city. That means they'll hunt him, set the dogs on him, make out he did all those crimes. Even though he is innocent.

**It's a great** example of one man taking the place of anothers.

**Themes:** Jesus dying in our place, Jesus taking the punishment we deserved, sacrifice, forgiveness, atonement

**Bible:**Isaiah 53 v 3, 1 Peter 3 v 18, John 11 v 50

#### 54. In the movie *French Kiss...*

Charming, but crooked, Luc takes his new friend Kate home to meet his family. As they walk through the family vineyards he warns her – his family hate him. He ran away after gambling away his inheritance and sleeping with his bother's wife. No one wants him here anymore. As they near the home an old man appears, throws his arms wide and smiles. It's his father, with a big welcome home.

**It's a great** 'prodigal son returning home' moment.

**Themes:** Forgiveness, grace, acceptance, the prodigal son, family reunited

**Bible:** Luke 15 vv 17-20

#### 55. In the movie *The Boat That Rocked...*

Carl is heartbroken after being dumped by the girl he has just fallen in love with. His friends on the Radio Rock pirate ship don't know what to do. So they do what they can. They bring him a cup of tea and a plate of biscuits. Carl doesn't touch any of it. They sit on the bench next to him and start drinking the tea. Then they begin eating the bisuits. Eventually Carl gives in and joins them. One of them grabs him and hugs him.

**It's a great** moment of friends sitting down with someone who is hurting.

**Themes:** Reaching out to others, communion, sharing pain, little things making a difference

**Bible:** Galatians 6 v 2, James 2 v 14-18, Matthew 25 vv 34-36

#### 56. In the movie *Lemony Snicket's A Series of unfortunatate Events*

Aunt Josephine lives in an old house built precariously on the edge of a massive clifftop. One half of the house hangs over the sea, supported by little more than a few dilapidated wooden struts. It is ill equipped to face any storms. When the weather turns seriously violent it is ripped apart and bit by bit falls into the sea.

**It's a great** scene for illustrating the dangers of a house built on 'sand'.

**Themes:** Building on a weak foundation, being wise, God is like a rock we can depend on

**Bible:** Matthew 7 vv 24-27, 2 samuel 22 v 3, Psalm 40 1-2

#### 57. In the movie *The Straight Story...*

Alvin Straight gets a phone call informing him that his estranged brother has had a stroke. Alvin is too old to drive, and does not want to ride on a bus. So instead he drives a ride on mower the 300 miles to patch things up with his brother. On his way he meets a minister and explains that he and his brother Lyle were really close growing up, but not anymore. When the minster ask what happened, Alvin says, 'A story as old as the Bible. Cain and Abel. Anger, vanity. You mix that together with liquor - you've got two brothers that haven't spoken in ten years.'

**It's a sad** moment of reflection about the loss of friendship and brotherhood.

**Themes:** Family, anger, rivalry, vanity, reconciliation, healing of broken relationships, past hurts

**Bible:** Genesis 4 vv 6-8, Genesis 33 vv 1-4

### 58. In the movie *Pulp Fiction*...

Jules and Vincent are a couple of hitmen. After one mission they discuss miracles over breakfast in a diner. Jules is convinced he has just experienced one, having been shot at at point blank range and survived. And having experienced this he is convinced he cannot be the same. He has felt the hand of God and he must be different now. He tells Vincent, 'I felt the touch of God, God got involved.' When Vincent asks, 'But why?' Jules replies, 'I don't why, but I can't go back to sleep.' And as result Jules is now seriously considering changing the direction of his life.

**It's a great** moment of repentance, changing direction.

**Themes:** Miracles, the God who intervenes, responding to God, repentance, starting over

**Bible:** John 6 v 26, John 2 v 23

### 59. In the movie *The Green Mile*...

Convict John Coffey begins to demonstrate healing power during his time on a death row. So one of the prison guards takes him to visit his sick wife. John approaches her bed, tells her not to be afraid. She looks terrified. He sits down beside her, places his mouth to hers, and something strange happens. The house shakes and the lights flicker. Downstairs the glass in a grandfather clock shatters. The wife opens opens her eyes, her face is calm, she smiles. Her husband breaks down.

**It's a great** moment of healing, similar to Jesus raising Jairus's daughter, and Elijah and Elisha raising the dead

**Themes:** Healing, miracles, compassion, spiritual warfare

**Bible:** 1 Kings 17 vv 17-24, 2 Kings 4 vv 32-35, Luke 8 vv 51-56

### 60. In the movie *Regarding Henry*...

Henry is a tough lawyer, but his life falls apart when he is involved in a shooting, which leaves him injured for a while. Henry's personality changes through this and he no longer belongs in the world of the tough lawyer. To help him recover his wife invites Bradley around to see him. Bradley is the nurse who helped Henry to walk and talk again after his accident. While they share a beer together Bradley tells Henry he has bad knees, but he doesn't mind. He tells Henry he wrecked his knees playing college football, and then decided to become a nurse because of the nurse that helped rehabilitate him. He thought, 'That's so cool, that's what I want to do.' Now, as a result of the accident he suffered, Bradley helps injured people like Henry to walk and talk and rebuild their lives.

**It's a great** example of weakness being turned to strength.

**Themes:** God can use our weaknesses to help others, God sometimes choose the foolish things over the wise

**Bible:** 2 Corinthians 1 v 4, 2 Corinthians 12 vv 8-9, Joel 3 v 10, 1 Corinthians 1 v 27

### 61. In the movie *This Year's Love*...

Danny and Anna have split up after she had an affair, but the two still love each other. So in the hope that he might win her back Danny marches into the supermarket where Alice works and says, 'What does love mean? There's too many things in it for just one word... I care about you, I worry about you, I need you, I miss you. You make me feel good about myself. You make me laugh. You make me laugh at myself... I come out of myself, I become like you... just being with you makes me realise why we're here... You care for somebody more than you care for yourself. You lose yourself. You may be frightened but you trust. And you risk. You risk everything you've fought to gain. You give all that away. And you forgive...'

**It's a great** parable about the way God continues to reach out to us.

**Themes:** God's faithfulness, Jesus's mission, the message of Hosea and other prophets

**Bible:** Hosea 3, 1 Corinthians 13 vv 4-7

### **62. In the movie *Dead Poets Society*...**

Mr Keating teaches poetry at the Welton Academy for boys. But his methods are a little unusual. On one occasion he takes his class outside and asks three of them to walk around a quad while the others watch. The three boys fall into line with each other and the rest of the class clap in time. After a while Mr Keating stops them and says this. 'I got them up here to illustrate the point of conformity, the difficulty of maintaining your own beliefs in the face of others. Now those of you – I see the look in yours thinking - I would have walked differently. Well, ask yourselves why you were clapping. Now we all have a great need for acceptance but you must trust that your beliefs are unique, even though others may think them odd or unpopular... Robert Frost said, "Two roads diverged in a wood and I – I took the one less travelled by. And that has made all the difference." Now I want you to find your own walk.'

**It's a great** scene about conformity and being true to yourself and your beliefs.

**Themes:** Peer pressure, conformity, going against the tide, being unique

**Bible:** Psalm 139 v 14

### **63. In the movie *Borat*...**

Borat is invited to a posh dinner party. During the meal there is a knock at the door. Borat answers it and finds a woman called Lunelle on the doorstep. He has invited her along without informing the others. He invites her to join them but she's a prostitute, and her presence embarrasses the others who make excuses and start leaving. Like Jesus, Borat has befriended the wrong kind of person, an outsider. Her presence creates a problem for the other guests.

**It's a telling** scene, illustrating the way Jesus disturbed some of the people he met by introducing them to those they perceived as 'unclean' or unacceptable.

**Themes:** Acceptance of others, outsiders, those who are marginalised, judging others

**Bible:** Luke 7 vv 36-50

### **64. In the movie *Gladiator*...**

Maximus is a loyal soldier and a great leader. However, when the Emperor is murdered by his son Maximus loses everything, is sold into slavery, and gets trained as a gladiator. In one of the staged battles he tells the rest of the fighters to stick together in the arena. 'Whatever comes out of these gates,' he says, 'we have a better chance of survival if we work together. If we stick together – we survive.' They do work together instead of merely trying to stay alive on their own. The enemy is powerful and better equipped, but they fight together and as a result they win the battle against the odds.

**It's a great** scene about working together.

**Themes:** Teamwork, community, respecting others, watching out for others

**Bible:** 1 Corinthians 12 vv 12&27, Acts 4

### 65. In the movie *The Company Men...*

Bobby Walker loses his well paid job with the massive company GTX. After going for countless job interviews and getting nothing he begins to fall apart. Almost in tears he has a bitter conversation with his wife Maggie. He tells her he is a 27 year old, unemployed loser, who can't support his family. But she replies, 'You are going to find a job working for people who know how lucky they are to have you. You have Drew, and Carson, (their children) your parents, and me. Okay? You have me!'

**It's a great** moment of perspective for Bobby, a reminder that his family have not given up on him.

**Themes:** Employment, worth, family, priorities, failure and success

**Bible:** Ecclesiastes 4 v 12, Ephesians 4 v 32

### 66. In the movie *To The Wonder...*

Father Quintana's faith is in crisis, he feels lost. Where should he find God now? As he travels round his community, meeting the poor and the lonely and the overlooked, he quietly prays a prayer in his mind. 'Where are you leading me? Teach us where to seek you. Christ be with me. Christ before me. Christ behind me. Christ in me. Christ beneath me. Christ above me. Christ on my right. Christ on my left. Christ in the heart.'

**It's a thoughtful** scene about caring for others and recognising the image of God in others.

**Themes:** Seeing Jesus in others, especially those who are often overlooked.

**Bible:** Matthew 25 vv 37-40, Ephesians 1 v 23, Joshua 1 v 9, Genesis 28 v 16

### 67. In the movie *The Hobbit...*

Gandalf, Bilbo and a bunch of homeless dwarves journey to Erebor to reclaim the dwarves' home from the dragon Smaug. On the way they meet up with Galadriel. When Galadriel and Gandalf talk together Galadriel asks why he has brought Bilbo on the quest. Gandalf replies, 'Saruman believes that it is only great power that can hold evil in check, but that is not what I have found. I found it is the small things - everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keeps the darkness at bay... simple acts of kindness and love. Why Bilbo Baggins? Perhaps it is because I am afraid, and he gives me courage.'

**It's a moment** of reflection about the small things that can make a difference.

**Themes:** Kindness, courage and compassion, small things matter, we can all make a difference

**Bible:** Galatians 6 v 9, Matthew 6 vv 3-4, Matthew 25 vv 31-40

### 68. In the movie *Man on Fire...*

John Creasey is a bodyguard hired to protect a young girl, Lupita Ramos, in Mexico city. When she is kidnapped and murdered Creasey vows to kill all those involved. However, he receives a phone call from the kidnappers and discovers that Lupita is still alive. Daniel, the chief of the kidnapping gang, offers Creasey a solution. He must give himself up for the girl, and exchange his life for Lupita's.

**It's a moment** of extraordinary sacrifice, one man giving up his life for another.

**Themes:** Rescue, salvation, redemption, Jesus' sacrifice for us, lives laid down for others

**Bible:** John 3 v 16, John 15 v 13

### 69. In the movie *Layer Cake*...

Cocaine dealer XXXX discovers his boss is a police informant. XXXX goes over to his hosue one night, confronts him and shoots him. He then disposes of all the evidence, burns the clothes he was wearing and takes a long shower. However, he is haunted by what he has done. He cannot just wash it away. The memory plagues his mind. So he tries alcohol, pills and movies to distract him but nothing works. His crimes haunts his conscience.

**It's a telling moment** about the way we can be haunted by our mistakesm crimes and bad choices.

**Themes:** Our crimes and wrongdoing can damage us and need repairing and putting right, atonement, forgiveness

**Bible:** Psalm 51, Psalm 103 vv 8-14, Isaiah 53 v 4-6

### 70. In the movie *Cinderella Man*...

Jim Braddock is a successful boxer, but when the depression hits his family lose everything. He and his family end up living in one basement room. At breakfast one day Jim's daughter Rosie asks for seconds, but they only have enough for one portion each. Jim starts telling her about a feast he ate in his dream. 'I dreamt last night I was having dinner at the Ritz,' he says, 'with Mickey Rooney and George Raft. I dreamed I had a steak. A thick juicy steak. Then I had a mountain of mashed potatoes and I went back for ice cream three times. I'm stuffed. I'm absolutely full. I cannot eat another thing. Want to give me a hand?' And when his daughter Rosie nods Jim puts his breakfast onto her plate.

**It's a great** illustration of a loving father.

**Themes:** Generosity, parents, family, kindness, demonstrating the selfless love of God

**Bible:** Matthew 7 vv 9-11, 1 John 3 v 1, Galatians 6 vv 9-10

### 71. In the movie *Paris Texas*...

Travis Henderson arrives at a hotel, where girls please customers who sit on the other side of a glass screen. Travis hides his identity, facing away from the glass. Jane enters on the far side of the glass screen and they begin a conversation. Travis asks the girl for no favours, instead telling her a story about a man and a woman who fell in love, married and had a child. As he fills in the details of his story Jane gradually realises it is their story. She is his wife and he has come to win her back.

**It's a scenario** that has similarities with the Old testament stories of God coming to find his wayward people.

**Themes:** The faithfulness of God, Hosea searching for his wife, the prodigals

**Bible:** Hosea 3 v 1, Ezekiel 16 1-15, Luke 16 vv 11-27

### 72. In the movie *Shrek Forever After*...

The evil Rumpelstiltskin has tricked Shrek in order to gain power in the land of Far Far Away. He has kidnapped Fiona and all the other ogres in the land. Shrek knows that the power is in his hands to save them, so he does the one thing he can. Rumpelstiltskin is desperate to capture Shrek so he gives himself up and surrenders his life to set Fiona and the others free.

**It's a great** example of one person sacrificing themselves to set others free.

**Themes:** Freedom, hope, new life, redemption, the sacrifice of Jesus

**Bible:** Isaiah 53 v 5, Luke 18 vv 31-32

### 73. In the movie *Invictus*...

When Nelson Mandela becomes president he is short of bodyguards so enlists the help of white policemen, trained by the SAS. When one of the black bodyguards goes to the president and complains Mandela tells him that he wants his bodyguard represented by blacks and whites. 'When people see me in public they see my bodyguards,' Mandela says. 'You represent me directly. The rainbow nation starts here. Reconciliation starts here.' The bodyguard replies that not long ago men like this were trying to kill them, and sometimes they succeeded. Mandela says, 'Yes I know. Forgiveness starts here too. Forgiveness liberates the soul. It removes fear. That is why it is such a powerful weapon.'

**It's a great** conversation about forgiveness in the most difficult of circumstances.

**Themes:** Forgiveness, reconciliation, compassion, courage

**Bible:** John 13 vv 34 - 35, Ephesians 4 vv 31-32

### 74. In the movie *Amélie*...

Amélie is a waitress in Paris. In her spare time she tries to secretly do good things for her friends. Then she falls in love with Nino. Rather than just blurting out how she feels she tries to communicate in a covert manner, leaving a trail of clues for him to follow. Nino takes the bait and begins to follow her carefully-laid trail. One day as Amélie waits to meet Nino in the café in which she works she starts to fret. Nino is late. Could something terrible have happened to him? She begins to worry, and as she worries so her imagination takes over. In her mind she constructs the following tale... A gang of hostages took him hostage; he caused them to crash, but banged his head in the process and lost his memory. Then he got picked up and mistaken for a fugitive and shipped to Istanbul where he met some Afghan raiders. They took him to steal some Russian warheads but their truck hit a mine and blew up. Nino survived and escaped to the hills and is now spending his days living with the Mujahideen, wearing a tea cosy for a hat.

**It's a great** example of the way our worries can get out of control.

**Themes:** Worry, trust, fears, doubts, anxieties

**Bible:** Matthew 6 vv 25-34, Philippians 4 vv 6-7

### 75. In the movie *Emma*...

Emma is a full-time matchmaker. She spends her days attempting to marry off her friends. However this often backfires on her. On route to mismatching many of her friends she discovers that she has fallen in love with Mr Knightley – her best friend. Can the great matchmaker make her own match? Emma and her friends go out for a picnic. A game is suggested. Each of them must say one very interesting thing, two mildly interesting things, or three very dull things. One of Emma's friends, Miss Bates, jokes that she will struggle to think of anything to offer, being of such humble mind. Emma snaps back that Miss Bates's problem will be keeping the list of mundanities to just three things. There is an awkward silence as Miss Bates slowly realises the meaning of Emma's acidic comment. Mr Knightley comes to Miss Bates's aid and rescues her from the embarrassment. Later, as they return home, Mr Knightley takes Emma to one side and chides her for picking on the lowly Miss Bates in front of everyone. Emma, is clever and witty and privileged. Miss Bates is none of these things. 'Badly done, Emma, ' says Knightley, 'badly done.' Emma turns away and hides her tears.

**It's a sad** example of the ways we can push others down in order to lift ourselves up.

**Themes:** Respect, criticism, encouragement, discipline, the way we talk to each other

**Bible :** Philippians 2 vv 5-10, Proverbs 15 v 4, Hebrews 12 v 11, James 3 v 5

### 76. In the movie *The Bourne Identity*...

Jason Bourne wakes up in a fishing boat with two bullets in his back and a number on a capsule buried in his leg. He has no idea who he is or where he's come from. He sets off to find himself and discovers that he must find out his true identity if he is to survive. Unknown killers are on his trail; and things are looking very bad. Jason enters a Swiss bank in search of the safety deposit box bearing the number he found in his leg. When he finds this and opens it he discovers that he has an awful lot of money, some guns and ammo and a dozen different identities. He is any number of people and has several different nationalities. He has narrowed the field but still has no real idea of who he is or where he's come from.

**It's a great** example of the search for who we really are.

**Themes:** Identity, purpose, direction, security

**Bible:** Psalm 139 vv 13-17, 2 Corinthians 5 vv 17-21, John 13 v 3, 1 Peter 2 v 9

### 77. In the movie *Jurassic Park 3*

Dr Alan Grant agrees to return to Isla Sorna, the former breeding ground of his dinosaurs. He thinks he's just taking a wealthy adventurer and his wife on an aerial tour; what he doesn't know, is that they recently lost their son in a boating accident, and they've come to track him down. The group land on the island, only to be attacked by one of the terrifying monsters. They try to take off again but their plane crash lands in a tree and before they can climb out, the monster is at them again, using the plane as its plaything, rolling it around with his foot. When the group tries to flee on foot the monster chases them and they have to hide in the undergrowth. Just when they think they are safe another dinosaur raises its head nearby and they suddenly find themselves caught between a rock and hard place – both of which have incisors the size of tombstones. Fortunately the monsters do battle with each other, rather than the paltry humans that were originally on the menu.

**It's a great** action sequence full of spills and thrills. In the book of Job such monsters are used as an example of God's awesome size and power.

**Themes:** God is bigger than our ideas about him, we can't box God, our understanding will always be limited

**Bible:** Job 40 v 15 – 41 v 34

### 78. In the movie *Bridget Jones's Diary*...

Bridget Jones is 31, single and lonely. She keeps a diary and monitors her cigarettes, calories and conquests. She resolves to improve her life – but it all goes badly wrong when she falls for her boss, Daniel Cleaver. Cleaver is a womaniser and a general wide boy and before long it becomes clear that he's playing fast and loose with Bridget's heart. In the meantime Bridget is nurturing a growing disgust for family friend Mark Darcy. What she doesn't realise is that Darcy is actually a nice guy – and one who is slowly falling in love with her. It comes to crunch time – Darcy and Cleaver have a fist fight in a local restaurant. They hate each other and both want Bridget for themselves. They battle like big children, with much leg flailing and hair pulling. They are not fighting like Clint Eastwood or Tom Cruise. These are men who are not well versed in the art of fisticuffs. However, they are dignified enough to stop throwing punches for a few moments when a cake is brought in and everyone sings Happy Birthday to one of the customers. As soon as that is over they continue the fight.

**It's a great** scene of two men doing their best to wrestle in suits in a posh restaurant!

**Themes:** Jacob wrestling with an angel, us wrestling with God, meeting God in the struggles

**Bible:** Genesis 32 vv 22-32, Psalm 40 vv 1-3, Hosea 12 vv 3-6



### 79. In the movie *ET...*

ET is an extra terrestrial. He crash lands in his space ship and goes exploring this new planet. He befriends a young boy, Elliot, and shows him love and supernatural power. They have many adventures together, including riding through the night sky together on bikes. When the local authorities discover what is going on they attempt to arrest ET and it all ends in disaster and E T dies. The medical staff try to revive him but it's no good. The adventure is over. Everyone leaves Elliot on his own to spend a few last minutes with his friend. He opens the body carrier, says goodbye and apologises to ET for what the people have done to him. Then he closes up the box and walks away. Just as he does so he notices that some dead flowers nearby are starting to come back to life. He turns back to the body. There's a light glowing in ET's chest. He throws the lid open and unzips the body bag. ET is alive! He is talking about phoning home. Elliot tries to keep him quiet but ET goes on and on and on, until eventually Elliot buries him under a sheet and wails loudly to cover the sound of ET's voice. He then runs and tells his brother and they celebrate together.

**It's a great** moment of resurrection.

**Themes:** The resurrection, new life, miracles, the unexpected, power over death, life after death

**Bible:** John 20 vv 11-18, John 11 vv 17-44, Luke 7 vv 11-17

### 80. In the movie *Touching the Void...*

We follow the true story of Joe Simpson's journey back down Siula Grande peak, with a badly broken leg and a shattered ankle. He and fellow climber Simon Yates had reached the summit, in the Peruvian Andes, and were on their way back down when Joe slipped, smashed his leg and fell down a crevasse. Simon, thinking his friend was dead, cut the rope and ventured back to base camp, alive but devastated. Joe meanwhile, endured the terrible pain and began the long, slow crawl back down the mountain. When Joe first slips off the mountain he falls into a deep crevasse. He is alone now, Simon believes he is dead and has gone on. Joe lowers himself onto what he thinks is the floor of the crevasse. He soon discovers it is only a wafer thin shelf, and that too much weight and too much movement will smash the icy floor and spell death for him. Inch by agonising inch he crawls across, and slowly, very slowly he climbs up the opposite wall and eases his way out of the crevasses through a tiny hole. Every step puts pressure on his broken leg, but he can't think about that, he can only concentrate on climbing.

**It's an astonishing** story of survival and endurance. A journey home against the odds.

**Themes:** Keep moving on with God though it may not be easy, facing difficulties, the way back, the life of faith

**Bible:** Joshua 14 vv 6-15, 1 Corinthians 9 vv 25-27, 1 Timothy 6 vv 11-12, Hebrews 12 vv 1-4

### 81. In the movie *Philomena...*

Philomena Lee and Martin Sixsmith take a journey to try to discover what happened to the son Philomena lost fifty years ago. When Philomena asks journalist Martin Sixsmith if he believes in God he replies that he thinks it's hard to give a simple answer to such a complex question. He then asks her, 'Do you believe in God?' and she says, rather simply, 'Yes.'

**It's a great** example of someone with simple, straightforward faith.

**Themes:** Trust, faith, wisdom, simplicity

**Bible:** Psalm 131 vv 1-3, Jeremiah 9 vv 23-25

**82. In the movie *The Kings of Summer*...**

Three teenage boys, Joe, Patrick and Biaggio, are all having family issues, so they decide to run away into the woods. Once there they build their own wooden house and live in it. They cook their own food, fend for themselves, grow beards and generally have a whale of a time establishing their independence. As they sit drinking beer on a tree trunk, watching the sun go down, Joe turns to Patrick and says, 'We have water, shelter, we can put a balanced meal on the table. I mean - we answer to no one. We're men!'

**It's an idyllic** moment that raises the question of true manhood.

**Themes:** Manhood, identity, responsibility, coming of age, maturity

**Bible:** Luke 2 v 52, 1 Timothy 5 vv 1-2, 1 Timothy 6 vv 11-12

**83. In the movie *To End All Wars*...**

One of the British Officers, Major Campbell, plans an escape attempt. But this fails and he and his men are rounded up and condemned to die. All the men in the camp are assembled to witness the executions. First Campbell's men are shot. Then the Japanese commandant approaches Major Campbell and tells him to kneel. He unsheathes his sword and prepares to behead him. Then there is a movement in the ranks of those watching. Fellow soldier Dusty Miller steps forward and speaks quietly to one of the guards. This interruption is punishable by death, but Miller has little to lose. The Japanese commandant listens to Miller for a moment, then barks instructions to the guards. The soldiers drag Dusty away to a yard outside the camp where they nail him to a cross and leave him to die. One of the soldiers cuts the ropes around Major Campbell's wrists and tells him, 'You are free.' What makes Miller's sacrifice so extraordinary is that he and Major Campbell had never really got on.

**It's an astonishing** scene of extraordinary sacrifice.

**Themes:** The crucifixion of Jesus, Jesus' sacrifice for us, lives laid down for others, sacrificial love, love for enemies

**Bible:** John 3 v 16, John 15 v 13, Mark 15 vv 6-39

**84. In the movie *Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban*...**

Harry Potter's 3rd year at Hogwarts begins when he runs away from the Dursleys. He's reunited with Hermione and the Weasleys at the Leaky Cauldron where he learns he is the likely target of dangerous escaped prisoner Sirius Black. Sirius is a highly dangerous mass murderer who has escaped from Azkaban Prison. Dementors are dispatched to the school to protect the place, but these too bring with them darkness and danger. Harry however discovers that Sirius is not out to hurt him, but to help him. In the final climax of the movie Harry and Sirius find themselves under attack from the evil Dementors. Sirius is injured and something must be done to protect him. Slowly Harry realises the truth. He is the one. He must step up and do battle, he has the power. He steps out of the trees, raises his wand and wards off the evil.

**It's a telling** scene about battling evil.

**Themes:** Spiritual warfare, standing up for what is right, the spiritual realm, the unseen world

**Bible:** Ephesians 6 vv 10-18, Matthew 21 vv 28-31, Daniel 7 vv 9-10, Daniel 10 vv 10-21

**85. In the movie *Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets*...**

Harry Potter has been imprisoned by his Uncle Vernon. He is not allowed to go back to Hogwarts school or see any of his friend's again. They keep him locked up in his room with no hope of freedom. Then one night he hears a tap on his

window. It's his best friend Ron Weasley who has arrived in a flying car to rescue him. Harry climbs out of the window and after a daring escape Harry flies to the Weasleys' home and stays with them until term starts. Their house is a remarkable place. The Weasleys are not rich by anyone standards, but their house is full of incredible things, and Harry spends an enchanted summer there, enjoying their friendship and learning a lot.

**It's an example** of breaking free and entering a whole new world.

**Themes:** The hope that God offers, God's kingdom of wonder and life, hope, heaven

**Bible:** 1 Corinthians 2 v 9, Isaiah 65 vv 17-25, Revelation 21 vv 1-7, 2 Peter 3 v 13

### **86. In the movie *Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone...***

Harry Potter loses his parents in a terrible accident and ends up living with his despicable uncle and aunt. On this 11th birthday he discovers that there is more to him than meets the eye. He is really wizard, and before long he meets Hagrid who takes him to Hogwarts, a school of wizards. Here he enters a magical world where he soon discovers many new skills and makes a lot of new friends. One night, while wandering around the school Harry discovers a large mirror in an empty room. When he looks into the mirror he sees something very strange. He sees his parents standing there with him. His father places a reassuring hand on his shoulder, yet when he looks around he sees that he is still alone. He calls his friend Ron and when Ron looks in the mirror he sees himself as head boy and school champion. What's going on? Harry doesn't really understand it but he takes to visiting the mirror regularly so he can sit on the floor and see himself, happy and once again with his mum and dad. One night Dumbledore the headmaster drops by, he knows Harry has been regularly visiting the mirror. He explains to Harry that this is the mirror of Erised – or 'desire' backwards. It shows the viewer the deepest and most desperate desires of the heart – and for Harry that is to know his parents and feel their love. But he warns Harry that it is dangerous to spend too much time there. People have wasted away in front of it. Even gone mad.

**It's a telling** scene about the way we can wish our lives away and miss the good things we have.

**Themes:** Wishful thinking, fantasies, connecting with the real world

**Bible:** Matthew 5 vv 3-12, Ecclesiastes 11 v 4, Romans 15 v 13

### **87. In the movie *Millions...***

Damian and his brother Anthony have recently lost their mum. They miss her terribly. Then one day, while Damian is sitting inside the cardboard grotto he has built at the end of the garden, by the nearby railway line, a bag of money comes flying out of nowhere and lands in his playhouse. The boys take the money home and count it in Damian's bedroom. They discover they have a quarter of a million pounds. They bring their friends round one by one and show them a little of it, explaining that they have a few hundred pounds, and giving them a little to keep them quiet. But what will they do with the money now? Anthony wants to spend it. But Damien wants to give it to the poor.

**It's a great** story about the power of money – to help and to hinder.

**Themes:** Money, generosity, greed, riches and poverty

**Bible:** Matthew 6 vv 19-24,

### **88. Bruce Almighty – You're Not Doing Your Job!**

Bruce is on a bad day. He's been sacked from work, he was beaten up as he left the company car park, and now his girlfriend Grace is giving him spiritual platitudes. She is also trying to get him to pray about his problems, and to that end she gives him some prayer beads. Bruce is driving in his car feeling sorry for himself when he notices the prayer

beads hanging on the rear-view mirror. So he decides to pray. He takes them off the mirror and starts to ask for a miracle to sort out all his problems. However, before he can finish he drives over a crater in the road and the prayer beads leap out of his hand. While he is fishing about for them under the seat he loses control of the car and drives into a lamppost. Bruce gets out of the car, takes one look at the damage and goes ballistic. He hurls the prayer beads into the river and shouts at the sky. Bruce is not happy and he's not going to pretend that everything's okay. 'Fine,' he shouts, 'the gloves are off, pal. Come on - let me see a little wrath. Smite me, oh Mighty Smiter! You're the one who should be fired! The only one round here not doing his job – is you! ANSWER ME!!'

**It's a great** scene about honest, raw praying.

**Themes:** Being honest with God, prayer, genuine relationship, pain, loss, disappointment with life and God

**Bible:** Lamentations 3 vv 1-24, Psalm 4 v 1, Mark 9 v 24, Job 3 vv 1-25

### **89. In the movie *Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade***

Indiana Jones and his dad set off on a quest to find the Holy Grail. They end up in the ancient monastery carved into the rock at Petra. Here Indy must face three final tests. He passes the first two but the final test is the most difficult. He must take a step of faith across a ravine, where there is no footbridge, just empty space above a drop that falls away into nothing. Indy steels his courage, lifts his foot and demonstrates his faith by stepping out. He holds his breath but doesn't fall. His foot lands on something solid. Once he has taken that first step he can see the outline of a footbridge over the gap and he can follow the way ahead. He hurries across and marks the path for his return journey.

**It's a great** scene about taking a step of faith.

**Themes:** Walking by faith, stepping into the unknown

**Bible:** Matthew 14 vv 22-33, 2 Corinthians 5 v 7, Hebrews 11 vv 1-2, Hebrews 11 v 8-10

### **90. In the movie *Kingdom of Heaven...***

Balian is a young blacksmith who has lost everything. He journeys to Jerusalem searching for hope and forgiveness, but there finds a city torn in two by warring Moslems and Christians. The Christians hold the city but the Moslems are spoiling to take it. Against his own judgement Balian takes up arms to defend the city. A vast army has attacked Jerusalem and, so far, the ragtag Christian force has held out. But there have been many casualties on both sides. During a lull in the fighting Saladin and the Moslems bury their dead. In the city Balian orders that their casualties be cremated in a mass grave. The priest protests, claiming that cremated souls cannot be resurrected until judgement day, but Balian is not convinced. If they do not burn the bodies they'll all die of disease contracted from the decomposing flesh. 'God will understand,' he says, 'and if he does not, then he is not God, and we need not worry.'

**It's a great** comment on the compassion of God.

**Themes:** God is compassionate, we concoct man-made rules but God is often bigger than them

**Bible:** Psalm 103 vv 8-14, John 15 vv 9-17, Isaiah 55 vv 8-9

### 91. In the movie *Matrix Reloaded*...

This is part two of the complex Matrix trilogy. Morpheus, Neo and the crew of the ship the Nebuchadnezzar have arrived at Zion. The enemy is closing in and an army must be assembled to battle against them. Soon Commander Lock will address the rebels, to inspire them for the struggle ahead. But before that there will be a celebration. Time for the people to relax and party. Morpheus meanwhile meets Commander Lock in his office and they argue about the solution to the present crisis. Lock does not believe in prophecies or messiahs. He does not believe Neo is 'the one'. He just sees the need for soldiers to fight and stop the attacking enemy.

'Not everyone believes what you believe,' he tells Morpheus.

Morpheus replies, 'My beliefs do not require them to.'

Councillor Hamann arrives and explains that he must address the people as there are many rumours regarding the gathering of so many ships and soldiers. Morpheus tells him he believes that soon the prophecy will be fulfilled and the war will end. They have freed many minds in the past six months, all the signs are good.

'I hope you're right,' says the councillor.

'I do not believe it to be a matter of hope,' Morpheus replies, 'it is simply a matter of time.'

**It's a great** conversation about belief, hope and certainty.

**Themes:** The battle won by Jesus, the certain and reliable hope we have in God

**Bible:** Isaiah 42 vv 1-4, Revelation 1 vv 9-18, Daniel 7 vv 13-14

### 92. In the movie *City of Angels*...

Maggie works as a doctor in a large hospital. She is depressed after one of her patients died while she was conducting an operation. At the end of work one day she walks down a corridor to see a stranger standing outside a lift. She asks him if he's a visitor and tells him that visiting hours are now over. The stranger tells her that right now he is visiting her. She says she does not need a visitor. But the stranger asks her if she is in despair. She admits to him that she lost a patient. He tells her it wasn't her fault, but she tells him that she wanted the man to live. She feels that it's her job to keep patients alive. The stranger, who is really an angel, says, 'He is living, just not the way you think.'

Maggie considers this then replies, 'I don't believe in that.'

To which the stranger says, 'Some things are true whether you believe in them or not.'

**It's a great** conversation about the reality of life after death, and the hope God brings in to our lives.

**Themes:** The afterlife, faith, angels, messages from God, hope, encouragement

**Bible:** Genesis 16 vv 4-13, 1 Kings 19 vv 3-8, Luke 2 v 8-14

### 93. In the movie *The Incredibles*...

Mr Incredible and Elastigirl are superheroes. However, not long after they get married their career is outlawed due to the spiralling number of lawsuits taken out against superheroes that rescue the wrong people. So they become Mr and Mrs Bob Parr, married with kids, living in suburbia. This is hard for both of them, but especially so for Bob. He hates his job and feels hemmed in by his boss, his tiny car and his inability to do what he was originally designed to do. Now he sits in his tiny office, amongst a ghetto of identical tiny offices, a giant of a man in a little cubicle. He works for an insurance company and is supposed to do all he can to make a profit for them. But Bob keeps breaking the rules – he keeps helping the clients. When one helpless old lady comes to visit he whispers a solution to her. When his diminutive boss comes around he gets another roasting. One of these days he's going to punch that guy through the wall. He later drives home in his matchbox car, stewing in his own froth and fury as he dawdles through the mother of all traffic jams. When he gets home he slips on a stray skateboard and in a fit of rage picks up his entire car. He is about to hurl it into next door's garden when he spies next door's kid watching him. He smiles sheepishly, gently puts the car down and sneaks away.

**It's a great** scene about the frustrations we can feel about our 'ordinary' lives.

**Themes:** We were made for more than this, gifts, skills, aspirations, ambitions, discarded hopes and dreams

**Bible:** Hebrews 11 vv 13-16, 1 Peter 2 vv 10-12

#### **94. In the movie *Legally Blonde*...**

Elle Wood is a dumb blond who, against all expectations, goes to Harvard to train as a law student. Towards the end of her course she finds herself in court as the defence lawyer in a murder trial, defending Mrs Brooke Windham, who is accused of killing her husband. At first Elle seems hopelessly out of her depth as she questions Chutney, the grown up daughter of the murdered man. Chutney says that she was in the house taking a shower and washing her hair when her father was shot and therefore did not hear it happening. Elle repeats this fact for a while as a bemused court looks on. She eventually asks Chutney what else she did that day and Chutney tells her she had a latte, went to the gym and then had a perm. Suddenly Elle's eyes light up. She asks Chutney how many perms she's had in her life. Chutney says she's had a lot over the years. So Elle then drops the bomb. 'Isn't it the first cardinal rule of hair maintenance that you're forbidden to wet your hair for at least twenty four hours after getting a perm at the risk of deactivating the chemicals used? And wouldn't someone who's had say 30 perms in her life be well aware of this rule? And if in fact you weren't washing your hair wouldn't you have heard the gunshot? And if in fact you did hear the gunshot Brooke Windham wouldn't have had time to hide the gun before you got downstairs. Which means you would have had to have found Mrs Windham with a gun in her hand to make your story plausible. Isn't that right?' Chutney then cracks and admits she actually killed her father by mistake, intending to shoot her step mother. Elle Wood may not appear to be the sharpest tool in the box, but she knows plenty about perms.

**It's a great** example of the foolish upending the wise.

**Themes:** God chooses the foolish things to confound the wise, strength and weakness, wisdom and folly

**Bible:** Jeremiah 9 v 23, 1 Corinthians 1 v 27

#### **95. In the movie *Hook*...**

Shock horror! Peter Pan has grown up. He has evolved into Peter Banning and is now married with his own children. One night Captain Hook comes looking for him and kidnaps his children. So Peter teams up with Tinkerbell and they go back to Neverland to find Peter's children and defeat Hook once and for all. When he gets back there Peter meets up with the Lost Boys. The boys don't recognise Peter at first, he's changed so much. They laugh at him, run rings around him and show him how unlike Peter Pan he is. One of them draws a line and demands that all those who doubt that this is really Peter Pan must cross the line with him. They all do, except one. One of the lost boys steps up close to Peter, takes a good long look at him, removes his glasses and pulls his face about. Suddenly he cries out, 'Oh, there you are, Peter!' The others come running and crowd round him. They have to come close and study him carefully but when they do they see that the old Peter Pan is still in there.

**It's a great** moment about the rediscovery of true identity.

**Theme:** Jesus sees the potential in the disciples, and in us, identity, calling

**Bible:** John 1 vv 35-51, 1 John 3 v 1

**96. In the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe...***

The Pevensie children (Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy) have been evacuated to their uncle Digory's house in the country. On a dull, wet day they decide to play hide and seek and Lucy finds a strange room with nothing in it but an old piece of furniture covered with a massive sheet. She pulls back the sheet to reveal a large ornate wardrobe. Thinking this is the perfect place to hide she opens the door and climbs in. The wardrobe is full of old fur coats, and as she pushes through them to hide at the back she finds her feet crunching in snow. When she emerges from the last of the fur coats she finds herself in a whole new land. Her eyes are wide with wonder. It is snowing and the place looks wonderful.

**It's a great** moment of discovery, as a child enters a whole new land.

**Theme:** Eyes opened, God's world, new insight, being born into a new world, new vision, fresh starts

**Bible:** John 3 vv 5-8, Acts 9 vv 17-18

**97. In the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian***

The children are looking for Prince Caspian. They are travelling through Narnia towards the Shuddering Woods when Lucy spies Aslan across a ravine while the others are looking away. She sees him only briefly and the others do not get a glimpse. When she tells them she has seen Aslan they don't believe her. They didn't see him, so how could he have been there? 'I'm not crazy,' she says, 'he was there, he wanted us to follow him.' 'Why wouldn't I have seen him?' Peter asks her. Lucy replies, 'Maybe you weren't looking.'

**It's a great** moment of testimony in the face of opposition.

**Themes:** Testimony, faith, trust, staying faithful, bearing witness

**Bible:** 1 Peter 3 vv 15-16, Luke 24 vv 44-49, 1 John vv 1-2

**98. In the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe...***

Edmund has betrayed the other children, making a pact with the White Witch in exchange for Turkish Delight. But the witch tricks Edmund and locks him up in a cell where he stays until he is rescued by one of Aslan's party. The next morning Aslan talked to Edmund alone, and then brings him over to the others, who are none too pleased with him for what he has done. 'What's done is done,' Aslan tells them. 'There is no need to speak to Edmund about what is the past.' One by one the children welcome him back. Even the reluctant Peter.

**It's a great** moment of reconciliation and forgiveness.

**Themes:** Reconciliation, forgiveness, moving on, fresh starts

**Bible:** John 21 vv 15-19, Proverbs 14 v 9, Matthew 18 vv 21-35

**99. In the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe...***

After returning from the dead Aslan takes Lucy and Susan to the witch's castle. There they find the courtyard full of creatures turned to stone, including Mr Tumnus the fawn. As the girls watch Aslan begins to move around the courtyard, breathing on the petrified figures. His breath has a magical effect. Slowly, one by one the stone figures begin to change and come back to life. As Mr Tumnus transforms back into himself Lucy runs to him and hugs him.

**It's a great** illustration of breathing new life into people.

**Themes:** New life, resurrection, the spirit of God, refreshment, revival

**Bible:** Ezekiel 37 vv 1-13, Joel 2 vv 28-29, Luke 4 vv18-19

**100. In the movie *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*...**

Bilbo Baggins has the ring and has kept it safe for a long time. When he makes himself invisible at his own party and sneaks home Gandalf guesses what has happened. When he confronts Bilbo at his house Bilbo tells him the ring is his, and asks why he should give it up. As Gandalf presses him on the subject Bilbo flares up and demands to know why he can't keep it. When Gandalf tells him he should leave the ring behind and go travelling without it, the temptation is too much for Bilbo. He calls the ring 'my precious' and Gandalf tells him he's had the ring long enough. Bilbo tells Gandalf he wants the ring for himself. Gandalf suddenly transforms before his eyes into a huge powerful version of himself. 'Do not take me for some conjuror of cheap tricks,' he tells Bilbo, 'I'm not trying to rob you, I'm trying to help you.' Bilbo is suddenly very scared and he runs to Gandalf. Gandalf hugs him then says, 'All these long years we've been friends. Trust me as you once did, and let it go.' The temptation to hang onto the ring is powerful, but eventually Bilbo drops it on the floor and leaves.

**It's a telling** moment about the power of temptation.

**Themes:** Temptation, deception, power, weakness, forgiveness, healing, letting go

**Bible:** James 4 v 7, Hebrews 2 vv 17-18, 1 Timothy 6 vv 8-9, Galatians 6 vv 1-2

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Movies that bring the Bible to life

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