



Feast on the Bible's big meal –
to draw strength for today and tomorrow

YOUTH ACTIVITY: SCENE IT

Use short out-of-context clips from popular films to illustrate how we cannot clearly understand the Bible by snacking on a few isolated parts. As we hear and read more and more of it, we will gradually become familiar with its big messages. An activity suited to 14 to 18s.

Aims:

- To help the young people to realise that each part of Scripture makes more sense when read alongside the rest of the Bible.
- To help the young people gain a greater sense of what Jesus did in dying for them.

Set up:

- Obtain the necessary DVDs and have some way of showing them set up. (If you are able to watch the DVDs yourself beforehand this would be helpful but not essential. However, do make sure you've at least familiarised yourself with the clips to be shown).
- Photocopy and cut up the required number of question slips. (Decide whether you want to give one slip per person/per pair/per small group. They will need a separate slip for each film.)
- Photocopy enough copies of the relevant Bible passages for each reader or group.

Note: There is a popular board game called 'Scene It' which involves clips from films. If this session is being used as part of a whole evening's activity, you may want to consider getting hold of a copy of the game to play for the rest of the evening.

Opening activity:

- Explain to the young people that they will be watching short scenes from different films and that you will be asking some questions about each film. Unfortunately they can't watch the whole film!
- Hand out the question slips.
- Stress that it doesn't matter whether or not they've seen the films before. Nor do they have to do a 'Jonathan Ross' film review of each one. What you are interested in is how much they can tell about the film only from this short clip.
- Show the scenes. (Make sure you know when each scene ends so that you can stop them abruptly. This is important or you'll give away what happens next!)



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- Go through the questions after each clip. (Refer to the film question sheet if you need to. The parts in brackets show what could be worked out about the rest of the film from the single scene.) Again, stress that you only want to know what they can work out from the clips. If the young people start to tell you the whole plot because they've seen the film before say something like, 'That's great; but how can you tell that from this scene?'
- While you've going through the questions for one scene, have a helper quietly cue up the next DVD. (Don't feel that you need to use all of the clips. In large part how long you spend on the DVD clips will be determined by how long you think the young people can concentrate on the Bible passages they'll be looking at afterwards.)
- When you've worked through the clips and questions, ask:
 - Does watching one scene of a film give you an idea of what the whole film is like? Did you find it frustrating? Why? (Ask for examples.)
 - How much can you tell about a film just by watching one scene? (Again, ask for examples.)
 - Would you ever rent a DVD and decide just to watch one scene? Why or why not?

Application:

- Say: just as it can be difficult to understand a whole film from one scene (imagine trying to understand 'The Lord of the Rings' Trilogy from one scene), you can't understand the whole Bible from reading one part of it. Explain that you're going to give them one of the most famous scenes in the Bible.
- Split the young people into small groups. Hand out the passage from Mark. Depending on your young people, either ask them to read the passage by reading round the group or ask a few more confident people to read it out.
- Ask:
 - If you knew nothing else about the Bible or Jesus except what you read here, would you think that there was anything special about him? Why or why not?
 - Does anything in this passage tell you why Jesus was killed?
 - Give the groups a few minutes to discuss before feeding back.
- Say that, to fully understand why Jesus died, we need to know some more Bible 'clips'. Hand out the passage from Romans and read as before.
- Ask:
 - What does this passage tell us about us as human beings? (We've messed up and gone our own way.)
 - What does this tell us about why Jesus died? (To pay the price for the wrong things we've done and bring us back to God.)

(Optional):

- If you have the time you may want to show that Jesus death was predicted centuries before.
- Explain that, as they've just seen, Jesus' death wasn't an accident. God doesn't make mistakes. It was God's plan for bringing humans back into a relationship with him. Part of the proof for this is that Jesus' death was written about hundreds of years before he was even born. Explain that they're about to look at a passage that was written about 700 years before Jesus' birth.
- Hand out the passage from Isaiah and read as before.



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- Ask:

What's similar between this passage and what happened to Jesus? (he was punished and killed; he was killed with criminals; he was laid in a rich man's grave.)

How does this match up with the passage from Romans? (Jesus took our sins; sacrificed as Jewish priests in ancient times sacrificed animals on an altar.)
- Explain that they're about to look at an even older piece of writing. Hand out Psalm 22 and read as before (This is the longest passage. Only hand this out if you are confident that the groups can cope with it.)
- Ask:

What's similar between this passage and Jesus' death? (Jesus being mocked; hands and feet pierced; clothing cast lots for; Jesus' feeling thirsty-though this is in John, not Mark.)
- When the groups have fed back, you may want to point out that many people believe that when Jesus said, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' he was quoting the first line of this Psalm. In Jewish culture, to quote the first verse of a Psalm was to quote the whole Psalm (In a similar way, if you were to say 'Let it never be said that romance is dead' most young people would know that you were quoting the first line of The Kaiser Chief's song 'Ruby'). This suggests that Jesus realised that this Psalm was about him and his death.

Conclusion

- Pick one of the films from the earlier activity and play the scene which follows on immediately from the scene played previously. (It may be best to pick one of the three animated films so that the session ends on a lighter note. In particular the follow on scene from 'Monsters Inc' is good fun!)
- Ask:

Does this scene make more sense having seen the scene before?

Does the scene you watched before make more sense now that you've seen this scene?

Ask for examples with both questions.
- Conclude by explaining that, the more we read of the Bible, the more it helps us to understand the bits we've already read (and the more we read it, the more the bits we've already read help us to understand the new bits). Piece by piece, we'll find the meaning and what God wants to say to us through it will keep becoming clearer. And, as with the passages we've just looked at, we'll start to see how God's plans are worked out through the whole of history in one big story.
- If you feel that it's appropriate, you may wish to explain how the young people can begin to read their Bibles without getting too bogged down by it. (It may well be worth paying a visit to your local Christian bookshop or a quick online search beforehand to see what Bible reading resources will catch your group's interest.)
- Finish by praying that God will help each person present to understand him better, particularly as we read about him in the Bible. Ask that he would speak to us as we read and that we would be ready to hear what he has to say.

Core idea: Jamie Hill

Idea development: Tim Crooks

Jamie Hill is a worship leader, songwriter and performer.

Tim Crooks is a Berkshire-based scriptwriter, who claims that his best writing is the result of his cat walking across the keyboard.



YOUTH ACTIVITY: SCENE IT – FILM CLIPS QUIZ

Use a selection of the following film clips. Answers to the quiz questions (see page 7) are given below.

'The Incredibles' (DVD Ch. 8)

What's the film?

What's happened immediately before this scene?

Mr Incredible's been fired after attacking his boss.

(Clearly had a bad day. Looks depressed.)

What's the plot so far?

Mr Incredible used to be a superhero but has given it up.

(Superhuman strength, secret message, newspaper clippings on wall.)

Who are the main characters?

Mr Incredible, Elastigirl, Violet, Dash, Jack-Jack, Frozone, Syndrome.

(We only see Mr Incredible and Elastigirl, though we're not given her name.)

What's going to happen next?

Mr Incredible takes the assignment which is a trap, set up by Syndrome. Elastigirl finds out and, with Violet and Dash, help rescue Mr Incredible and defeat Syndrome.

(All we can tell is that Mr Incredible will take the assignment.)

'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade' (DVD Ch. 3)

What's the film?

What's happened immediately before this scene?

Indy has seen some men unearth a famous cross. He's stolen it off them and jumped aboard a circus train. They've chased after. He's fallen into the lion wagon.

(We can see Indy's fallen in the lion wagon and that the men want the cross. We also learn that Indy's stolen it.)

What's the plot so far?

See the previous question. This is the very beginning of the film so this is all that's happened so far.

Who are the main characters?

Indiana Jones, Indy's dad, Marcus, Donovan, Elsa, Salah.

(Only Indy and his dad appear.)

What's going to happen next?

We see Indy recover the cross, over twenty years later, before beginning his search for the Holy Grail, which is the main plot.

(Might guess at getting the cross again but not much more.)



'Wallace and Gromit and the Curse of the Wererabbit' (DVD Ch. 8)

What's the film?

What's happened immediately before this scene?

Gromit has just chased the wererabbit down a massive rabbit hole.

(We see Gromit emerge from the hole and see some large footprints leading away from the hole.)

What's the plot so far?

Wallace and Gromit are in the humane rabbit catching business. Wallace has carried out an experiment on himself and a rabbit called 'Hutch' to try to brainwash the rabbits into giving up veg. However, a massive rabbit is on the loose, eating the village's vegetables. Wallace has promised Lady Tottington that he'll catch it.

(Wallace has carried out an experiment on Hutch. There's a monster rabbit on the loose. Wallace has made a promise to Lady Tottington.)

Who are the main characters?

Wallace, Gromit, Lady Tottington, Victor.

(Wallace and Gromit appear, Lady Tottington is referred to.)

What's going to happen next?

Wallace is going to see Lady Tottington, thinking he's caught the wererabbit, unaware that it is, in fact, him.

(We hear Wallace say this and we see Gromit discover Wallace is the wererabbit.)

'Spiderman 2' (DVD Chs. 9, 10)

What's the film?

What's happened immediately before this scene?

Peter has just visited Otto Octavius, a scientist who, the next day, is planning to show the world how he has harnessed the power of nuclear fusion. During conversation with Peter, Otto reveals that the way to a woman's heart is reading her poetry.

(All we see is Peter reading poetry; we may guess it's to attract MJ but we don't know where the idea came from.)

What's the plot so far?

Peter Parker is struggling to balance his studies and job with his responsibilities as Spiderman. He is still besotted with MJ.

(All we see is his devotion to MJ.)

Who are the main characters?

Peter, MJ, Otto Octavius/Dr Octopus, Aunt May, Harry Osborn.

(We only see Peter and MJ.)

What's going to happen next?

Peter is knocked off his bike by a pair of criminals. He changes into his Spiderman outfit and captures the criminals but misses seeing MJ in the play.

(There is nothing to suggest this in the clip.)



'Monsters, Inc.' (DVD Ch. 11)

What's the film?

What's happened immediately before this scene?

It's the end of the day. Mike has a date with Celia but has forgotten to file his reports. Sulley goes to do it for him.

(We can guess it's the end of the day as Sulley's the only one around and he's looking for the reports though it's not clear why.)

What's the plot so far?

The film is set in Monstropolis, which is powered by the screams of children. To keep up the supply of power, monsters are sent through children's bedroom doors to make them scream. Sulley is one of the best monsters at this.

(Very difficult to guess any of this.)

Who are the main characters?

Sulley, Mike, Boo, Randall.

(While we see Sulley, Boo and Randall, we don't know what they're called.)

What's going to happen next?

Sully captures Boo and takes her to a restaurant where Mike and Celia are eating. Boo gets loose and terrorises the restaurant which leads to a raid by the Child Detection Agency. Mike and Sulley just manage to escape with Boo.

(There is no reason to guess this.)

'The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King' (DVD Ch.15)

What's the film?

What's happened immediately before this scene?

Gandalf has brought Pippin to the city of Minas Tirith. It is under threat by the forces of Sauron but the Steward of the city, Denethor, refuses to call for aid. Osgoliath (a nearby city) is under attack by Sauron's forces.

(Beacons are normally lit in time of war but we don't know the circumstances nor why Pippin is doing this secretly.)

What's the plot so far?

Impossible to summarise!

(To get much at all from this clip on its own is virtually impossible - just like some bits of the Bible.)

Who are the main characters?

Frodo, Sam, Gandalf, Aragorn, Legolas, Gimli, Pippin, Merry - among many others.

(We see only Pippin and Gandalf but don't know who they are.)

What's going to happen next?

Aragorn sees the beacon and rouses the people of Rohan to ride to Minas Tirith to help. (We can guess that the beacon is intended to bring help but we don't know who from.)



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Photocopy and cut out enough quiz slips for each person/pair or small group and for each film clip:

Film clips quiz

What's the film?

What's happened immediately before this scene?

What's the plot so far?

Who are the main characters?

What's going to happen next?

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BRIATHAR DE NOCHTAITHÉ DO CHÁCH
GOD'S WORD OPEN FOR ALL
National Bible Society of Ireland

YOUTH ACTIVITY: SCENE IT – BIBLE READINGS

Reading 1 (Mark 15.22–45, *The Message*)

The soldiers brought Jesus to Golgotha, meaning "Skull Hill." They offered him a mild painkiller (wine mixed with myrrh), but he wouldn't take it. And they nailed him to the cross. They divided up his clothes and threw dice to see who would get them.

They nailed him up at nine o'clock in the morning. The charge against him—the king of the jews—was printed on a poster. Along with him, they crucified two criminals, one to his right, the other to his left. People passing along the road jeered, shaking their heads in mock lament: "You bragged that you could tear down the Temple and then rebuild it in three days—so show us your stuff! Save yourself! If you're really God's Son, come down from that cross!"

The high priests, along with the religion scholars, were right there mixing it up with the rest of them, having a great time poking fun at him: "He saved others—but he can't save himself! Messiah, is he? King of Israel? Then let him climb down from that cross. We'll all become believers then!" Even the men crucified alongside him joined in the mockery.

At noon the sky became extremely dark. The darkness lasted three hours. At three o'clock, Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Some of the bystanders who heard him said, "Listen, he's calling for Elijah." Someone ran off, soaked a sponge in sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."

But Jesus, with a loud cry, gave his last breath. At that moment the Temple curtain ripped right down the middle. When the Roman captain standing guard in front of him saw that he had quit breathing, he said, "This has to be the Son of God!"

Taken to a Tomb

There were women watching from a distance, among them Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and Joseph, and Salome. When Jesus was in Galilee, these women followed and served him, and had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Late in the afternoon, since it was the Day of Preparation (that is, Sabbath eve), Joseph of Arimathea, a highly respected member of the Jewish Council, came. He was one who lived expectantly, on the lookout for the kingdom of God. Working up his courage, he went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate questioned whether he could be dead that soon and called for the captain to verify that he was really dead. Assured by the captain, he gave Joseph the corpse.

Reading 2 (Romans 3.10–12, 23–26, *The Message*)

There's nobody living right, not even one,
nobody who knows the score, nobody alert for God.
They've all taken the wrong turn;
they've all wandered down blind alleys.
No one's living right;
I can't find a single one.



God Has Set Things Right

Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.

God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear. God decided on this course of action in full view of the public—to set the world in the clear with himself through the sacrifice of Jesus, finally taking care of the sins he had so patiently endured. This is not only clear, but it's now—this is current history! God sets things right. He also makes it possible for us to live in his rightness.

Reading 3 – optional (Isaiah 53.4–12, Good News Bible)

4 “But he endured the suffering that should have been ours,
the pain that we should have borne.

All the while we thought that his suffering
was punishment sent by God.

5 But because of our sins he was wounded,
beaten because of the evil we did.
We are healed by the punishment he suffered,
made whole by the blows he received.

6 All of us were like sheep that were lost,
each of us going his own way.
But the LORD made the punishment fall on him,
the punishment all of us deserved.

7 “He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly;
he never said a word.
Like a lamb about to be slaughtered,
like a sheep about to be sheared,
he never said a word.

8 He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die,
and no one cared about his fate.

He was put to death for the sins of our people.

9 He was placed in a grave with the wicked,
he was buried with the rich,
even though he had never committed a crime
or ever told a lie.”

10 The LORD says,
“It was my will that he should suffer;
his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness.
And so he will see his descendants;
he will live a long life,
and through him my purpose will succeed.

11 After a life of suffering, he will again have joy;
he will know that he did not suffer in vain.
My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased,
will bear the punishment of many
and for his sake I will forgive them.

12 And so I will give him a place of honour,
a place among the great and powerful.
He willingly gave his life
and shared the fate of evil men.
He took the place of many sinners
and prayed that they might be forgiven.”

Reading 4 – optional (Psalm 22, Good News Bible)

1 My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
I have cried desperately for help,
but still it does not come.

2 During the day I call to you, my God,
but you do not answer;
I call at night,
but get no rest.

3 But you are enthroned as the Holy One,
the one whom Israel praises.

4 Our ancestors put their trust in you;
they trusted you, and you saved them.

5 They called to you and escaped from danger;
they trusted you and were not disappointed.

6 But I am no longer a human being; I am a worm,
despised and scorned by everyone!

7 All who see me jeer at me;
they stick out their tongues and shake their heads.

8 “You relied on the LORD,” they say.
“Why doesn't he save you?
If the LORD likes you,
why doesn't he help you?”

9 It was you who brought me safely through birth,
and when I was a baby, you kept me safe.

10 I have relied on you since the day I was born,
and you have always been my God.

11 Do not stay away from me!
Trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.

12 Many enemies surround me like bulls;
they are all round me,
like fierce bulls from the land of Bashan.

13 They open their mouths like lions,
roaring and tearing at me.

14 My strength is gone,
gone like water spilt on the ground.
All my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like melted wax.

15 My throat is as dry as dust,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.
You have left me for dead in the dust.

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16 An evil gang is round me;
like a pack of dogs they close in on me;
they tear at my hands and feet.

17 All my bones can be seen.
My enemies look at me and stare.

18 They gamble for my clothes
and divide them among themselves.

19 O LORD, don't stay away from me!
Come quickly to my rescue!

20 Save me from the sword;
save my life from these dogs.

21 Rescue me from these lions;
I am helpless before these wild bulls.

22 I will tell my people what you have done;
I will praise you in their assembly:

23 "Praise him, you servants of the LORD!
Honour him, you descendants of Jacob!
Worship him, you people of Israel!"

24 He does not neglect the poor or ignore their suffering;
he does not turn away from them,
but answers when they call for help."

25 In the full assembly I will praise you for what you have done;
in the presence of those who worship you
I will offer the sacrifices I promised.

26 The poor will eat as much as they want;
those who come to the LORD will praise him.
May they prosper for ever!

27 All nations will remember the LORD.
From every part of the world they will turn to him;
all races will worship him.

28 The LORD is king,
and he rules the nations.

29 All proud people will bow down to him;
all mortals will bow down before him.

30 Future generations will serve him;
they will speak of the Lord to the coming generation.

31 People not yet born will be told:
"The Lord saved his people."

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11 *Youth Activity: Scene it*

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