

Candidate/Sponsor Movie Reflection
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring

Due Date: on or before Monday, November 6, 2017

Candidate Name: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

We completed this activity together on _____

As we mature in our faith, we begin to look at the world with a new set of eyes. We begin to recognize God's work in creation, in our relationships, and events. With practice, we learn to discern the gentle guidance of the Spirit in our lives. This guidance is not limited to direct contact with the Spirit (although this sometimes happens). Many times the Spirit speaks to us through people we know; through nature, or through our lived experiences. Sometimes the Spirit can speak to us through music, art, books or movies. Seeing with "the eyes of God" (hearing with His ears) takes practice. To that end, Sponsors and Candidates will view the movie "The Fellowship of the Ring" together. Even if you've seen it before, you will be watching with a fresh pair of eyes and an open heart.

The point of this activity is for the candidate and the sponsor to deepen their relationship by helping each other strengthen the ability to recognize and respond to the Godly purpose in our lives. That's what all intentional disciples do. **Enjoy the show!**

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Candidate and Sponsor or Parent
- 1 ½ - 2 hours, blissfully uninterrupted
- DVD or On-demand The Fellowship of the Ring
- Tall cool beverage, popcorn, or any other favorite movie snack
- Reflection sheet, pen or pencil
- Bible

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Throughout the movie we see both heroes and villains morally conflicted. Aragorn struggles over whether to accept the responsibility as a king. Boromir struggles with his desire to defend the people of Gondor while giving in to his lust for the power of the ring. Frodo fights the ring every step of the way while trying to fulfill his duty to destroy it. Sam longs for the comforts of the Shire, but he plods on faithfully as Frodo's servant.

Read Romans 7:15-19 and Philipians 4:4-9.

What role does the inner battle for morality play in spiritual development? Can one become virtuous and avoid this constant internal fight? If so, how?

Candidate: _____

Sponsor: _____

Think of someone you know who has excellent moral character. Do you think that person ever struggles with moral decisions? How do you think that person got to his or her current place of spiritual development?

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Sponsor: _____

One of the strongest themes running throughout the movie is the self-sacrifice many of the characters make either by giving their lives to protect others or by accepting difficult duties and responsibilities. For example, when the council at Rivendell is bickering and arguing over who should dare attempt to destroy the ring, Frodo steps into the chaos, saying, and "I will take it. I will take it, I will take the ring to Mordor." Arwen sheds her immortal life for selfless love, Boromir dies protecting Frodo, and Sam tirelessly gives of himself over and over.

Read Philippians 2:1-4, 4:4-9.

How do selfishness, self-centeredness, and conceit prevent moral development? Why is it so important to be humble and self-sacrificing?

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Sponsor: _____

What are some areas in life where you find it hard to be self-giving? What duties and responsibilities are the hardest for you to bear for others?

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Sponsor: _____

What kind of mindset is necessary to become a selfless and responsible person? How would a truly selfless person respond to being given the kind of authority and power the ring represents?

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Sponsor: _____

The ring influences nearly everything that happens. It is a ring of power, giving its bearer the ability to control entire races. Everyone who touches it or even comes near it is pulled to it and tempted to use its power for personal purposes. Frodo is tempted, Sam is tempted, Boromir is tempted, and even Gandalf is swayed. The lust for power is the root of all evil in this movie.

Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10.

The Bible says “the love of money is the root of all evils.” What is the common element behind eagerness for riches and a lust for power? In what way does money represent power?

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Sponsor: _____

What is the “ring of power” in your life? What is the one thing you have to be most on guard against and must avoid so temptation doesn’t grab you?

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Sponsor: _____

The Fellowship of the Ring is based on the trilogy written by J.R.R.Tolkien. He was a deeply devout Catholic man. Even though Tolkien never mentions God in the story, he refers to a providential being. Gandalf says, "There are other forces at work in this world, Frodo, besides the will of evil. Bilbo was meant to find the ring, in which case you were also meant to have it. And that is an encouraging thought."

Providence has been defined as "The care, guardianship, and control exercised by a deity." What experiences have you had that you would describe as God's providence?

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Sponsor: _____

The Bible defines faith as "Being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." The members of the Fellowship of the Ring certainly had faith, although they sometimes wavered. How unwavering do we have to be to be faithful? Can we have doubts and still be said to have faith? How much doubt is okay?

Candidate: _____

Sponsor: _____

What if you don't see the hand of God active in your life? What could be the reasons for this?

Candidate: _____

Sponsor: _____

Candidate: What is the role of risk in the exercise of faith? How do you think the sacrament of Confirmation will help you be a risk-taker for Jesus Christ?

Sponsor: How has the Sacrament of Confirmation helped you be a risk taker for Jesus Christ?

Candidate's Signature _____

Sponsor's Signature _____