

# For the Classroom



## A Movie About Me!

*This is a reflection activity which you could use with your class. It invites your students to consider what a film made about their own life might look like. It can be used for pair work or small group discussion, in addition to journal writing. It is presented here in two lessons with homework, but you can freely adapt it to use in whatever way you feel is appropriate.*

### LESSON 1

*1. Invite the students to a moment of quiet reflection. When everyone is settled, present the following scenario:*

**Imagine that you have been contacted by a famous Hollywood director about making a film of your life. The director wants to focus on the everyday spiritual journey of a teenager in the twenty-first century.**

**With this in mind think about the following questions:**

- **What would be the title of the film?**
- **Who would play the leading role? Why?**
- **Describe their personality, abilities, strengths, weaknesses.**
- **What would be the high point of the film? the low points? The funny parts?**
- **What rating would the film get?**
- **What aspects of your spiritual journey would you advise the director to emphasise?**



- 2. Invite the students to write their thoughts in their journal. Then ask them to write a brief story line, focusing on the highlights and key themes. Monitor the energy of the group and decide when time is up.*
- 3. Divide the students into small groups or assign partners. Have them share with their small group or partner some of the things they wrote in their journal, if they are comfortable doing so. To set the tone, you could begin by sharing your ideas about a movie of your own life.*

### HOMEWORK

- 4. Present the following options for follow-up to the reflection activity and ask the students to choose one or more options.*
  - a. Create a poster for their film.**
  - b. Write alternative lyrics to a popular song to be used as the theme song for their film.**
  - c. Write the script for a 30 second radio commercial advertising their film.**

## LESSON 2

1) Get some volunteers to share elements of their 'Movie About Me' with the full group, including as many details as they feel comfortable sharing. Provide a director's chair for the student to sit in while they talk about their film.

### 2) Reflection Activity

*Present this scenario for reflection:*

**Suppose a film about your life wins a prestigious award at an annual nationally televised award show. What do you say in your acceptance speech? Who do you thank?**



*Tell the students to write a speech in their journal. If time allows, invite them to share their speech. You might also include partial readings of the speeches as part of the closing prayer.*

### 3) Prayer Time

*Create a prayerful atmosphere by placing a cross, candles, a Bible, some flowers / greenery in the centre of the room.*

*Gather your students around in a large circle. Make the following points in your own words:*

- Our life stories are not isolated.
- Each person's life is a part of a larger whole, the story of Christians throughout the ages.
- Our stories are a part of this history.

*Distribute a small piece of paper and a pencil to each student.*

**Ask the students to write on their paper the title of the film about their life.**

*Begin playing music then pass around an empty DVD box.*

**Ask them to place the title of their films in there.**

*Add the box to the prayer space.*

*Alternatively, ask students to place their titles one by one in the prayer space.*

*Read Luke 8:16-18, the parable of the Lamp or recruit a volunteer to do so.*

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke,**

**'No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known to light. Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away.'**

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



*Conclude with a comment along the following lines:*

**Like the lamp used in a film projector to bring the stories to life on the screen, God is our light. God's light shines through us and helps us to share our spiritual story with others.**

**Ask the students to extend one of their hands toward the DVD box.**

*Pray for God's blessing on the box and on the stories in it.*

*Give the students an opportunity to pray for those who support them in living out their story.*



*Close with the following prayers:*

**Dear God, you bring light to our lives. Give us the courage to show that light through the stories of our lives. Lord hear us.**

**Our stories are part of a greater story, the story of Christian people throughout the ages. Help us to share our stories with others, to encourage and inspire them. Lord hear us.**

**You created each of us in a leading role. Give us the courage to lead the way for others with our light. Lord hear us.**

*(Source: Retreats: Deepening the Spirituality of Girls, Julia Ann Keller)*