Fertile Question: Being spiritual: What’s in it for me?

Core Content Area 3: What’s in it for me?

TOPIC 3.1: SPIRITUALITY AND THE ARTS

Depthing Understanding: Faith in Film

In this lesson students will explore the power of film to nurture spirituality.

Teachers: Before You Start!

1. Read the Teacher Background about the place of the arts in spirituality.

2. Request video clips from Enhance TV through ResourceLink.

For students to increase understanding select from the following activities:

1. Discuss as a class, movies that have been inspiring or powerful. Framing questions could include:
   - What was the movie about?
   - Why was it inspiring? Sets? Music? Message?
   - Is a great movie necessarily powerful or inspiring?
   - How often do movies have life messages?
   - How frequently is a positive faith stance of central character/s portrayed in films? Why? Why not?
   - What makes a terrible movie?
   - Have you ever walked out of a movie because of its content?

2. Determine the power of the process of story-telling through the medium of film to inform or challenge viewers’ spirituality.
   a. Explore the website for the movie Amazing Grace.
   b. View scenes from the film including the scene titled You found God Sir.
   c. Explore the themes of the film by completing activities in the Faith Guide.
   d. Analyse some of the devices that were used in the film to communicate the spiritual formation of William Wilberforce. List and determine the effectiveness of these devices.
   e. View the scenes from the film Ghandi and/or Romero (available from ResourceLink) and identify events in their lives highlighted in the films that challenge the viewer’s understanding of spirituality in the face of violence and adversity.

3. List other films where a central character’s spirituality is portrayed and discuss how this portrayal contributed to your own thoughts/feelings about spirituality.

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