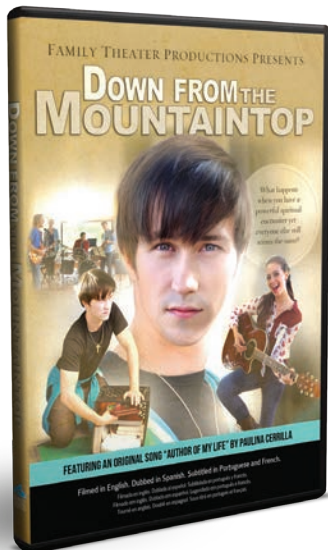


MOVIE NIGHT WITH DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

a Short Film



Questions for Discussion

Have you been on a retreat before? Describe what it was like. What does the word retreat mean?

The theme of the retreat in the film is "Finding God Again For the First Time." Discuss what this means. How is this true for the dad in the film? How is this true for Adam? What does this mean for you?

For Adam, serving God was found in playing music. Where and when do you feel closest to God and others?

Have you had this experience with a retreat or maybe a vacation? Why is it so hard to return to the "real world"? What are some ideas to help integrate our experiences?

What Does the Bible Say?

Jesus said to the Apostles: "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."

Mark 6:31

What Does Pope Francis Say?

And this is what Christian life is: It is a mission for the whole Church: listen to Jesus and offer him to others. Do not forget: listen to Jesus! Keep a little book of the Gospel in your pocket or in your purse to read in little stages throughout the day.

For more from the Pope, read his Angelus from March 16, 2014 at vatican.va.

What Does the Catechism Say?

Christ's Transfiguration aims at strengthening the apostles' faith in anticipation of his Passion: the ascent onto the "high mountain" prepares for the ascent to Calvary. Christ, Head of the Church, manifests what his Body contains and radiates in the sacraments: "the hope of glory" [CCC 568].



Movie Trivia

The song "You're the Author of the My Life" was written by Paulina Cerrilla, who plays Cristina, along with Benjamin Romans! Go to itsmepaulina.com for more about Paulina.

Scripture Passages To Ponder

Look up each passage. Read aloud. Take a moment of quiet, then read the passage once again. Take turns reading aloud. Then answer the questions.

Did you know that the Gospel of Matthew has six significant mountain scenes: Jesus' temptation (4:8), the Sermon on the Mount (5:1), a number of healings (15:29), the Transfiguration (17:1), Jesus' final discourse (24:1), and the commissioning of the Apostles (28:16)? Other than the Holy Land being particularly mountainous, why do you think mountains are used so frequently in the Bible? Pope Francis says: "The mountain in the Bible represents a place close to God and an intimate encounter with Him, a place of prayer where one stands in the presence of the Lord." Why do you think this is true?



Activities

1. Technology and Faith: How does technology help our society and community stay connected? How does it hurt? Why were the teens told to put away their phones for the retreat? What are ways we can unplug in our daily lives? Think of three ways to remember to unplug and reconnect with our families, our friends, ourselves and God.
2. Mountains can symbolize a closeness to God. What are some famous and important mountains in the history of God's people? (Hint: Exodus 19-20, 24, Luke 22:39-49, Acts 1:9-12, Matthew 5,6,7). Look up the passage, name the mountain and why it is significant. Then name three places that you find closeness to God.
3. Cristina says, "Can we only feel close to God on retreat? Part of me wishes we could have just stayed there." Think of a time when you felt close to God and one another. Why do you think this changes? Does everyone experience this? What are ways to stay refreshed and renewed, even amongst the day to day busyness?



Want More Resources?

familytheater.org • HCFMStore.org

Try Prayer

For Family Prayer:

When Adam returns from the retreat, everyone is too busy or distracted and his good intentions get overlooked. How do you manage to find time for life, let alone time for God and prayer? Think of ways that you and your family can find time to reconnect each day and pray together. Here are some ideas:

- Try praying as a family before meals. Sit down and write your own family grace.
- Before eating dinner or going to bed, take time as a family to think of three things you are thankful for from that week. Be concrete. Have each person share, then end with a short prayer of thanksgiving.
- After dinner is done, pray one decade of the rosary. Then help with the evening chores.

For Personal Prayer:

Adam's dad confesses, "It was when I turned 25. You asked me when I first realized God was really real." When did you first realize God was real? Take time to recognize "God moments" in your life. When did God reveal Himself to you? How does He do so in the ordinary and extraordinary parts of your life? Write this down and share part of it with a loved one. If you are a parent or a teacher, be sure to model this kind of personal sharing of faith for your kids or students.

Ponder: Pope Francis says, "We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord. This we do in prayer."

Write: What are ways you can "ascend the mountain" and find a "space of silence" in your current everyday life?

