

## Christian Morality - Grade 8

Dear Parent or Guardian,

During our course on morality and justice, your daughter or son has been studying God's call to live a moral life. In our discussions we frequently touch on the moral messages we receive from the media and our culture. Oftentimes the media's messages run counter to God's message about the types of choices young people should be making. During this course we have been working on developing tools to sort out those messages.

The course project, "Morality and the Movies," is one example of this. In this project the participants will be watching a movie and critiquing it based on moral principles they are learning in the course. They will be provided with a handout to guide them in analyzing the movie. Then, just as Saint Paul writes, "Put all things to the test, keep what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21), the participants will take a good moral decision that was made by one or more of the characters in the movie and make a poster or a diorama to represent it. They will then be asked to bring their completed projects to our final session.

Parents are strongly encouraged to help their children with this project. Please take time to discuss the movie, brainstorm ideas for the craft, and work on the craft together. In part, our hope is that this project will help open the door for you to have a healthy and honest discussion about morality and choices with your children.

As part of the closing session for this course, the young people will be sharing their crafts with the entire class. Parents and other family members will be invited to attend, so please mark **April 26, 2010** on your calendar. You won't want to miss this exciting evening.

**This project is DUE NO LATER THAN APRIL 19, 2010. Please include name on project.**

Sincerely,

## Movie Choices

- *Bee Movie* (2008, 90 minutes, rated A-I and PG)
- *Cars* (2006, 116 minutes, rated A-I and G)
- *Charlotte's Web* (2007, 96 minutes, rated A-I and G)
- *A Christmas Carol* (1999, 94 minutes, rated A-I)
- *Enchanted* (2007, 107 minutes, rated A-I and PG)
- *Hoosiers* (1986, 111 minutes, rated A-I and PG)
- *The Indian in the Cupboard* (1995, 97 minutes, rated A-I and PG)
- *The King and I* (1956, 133 minutes, rated A-I and G)
- *A Man for All Seasons* (1966, 120 minutes, rated A-I and G)
- *Mary Poppins* (1964, 139 minutes, rated A-I and G)
- *Mulan* (1998, 88 minutes, rated A-I and G)
- *The Muppet Movie* (1979, 95 minutes, rated A-I and G)
- *Ratatouille* (2007, 111 minutes, rated A-I and G)
- *The Spiderwick Chronicles* (rated A-I and G)

## Morality And the Movies

These are questions to discuss after watching the movie. The chapter number after each question refers to the chapter in *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers* that you may wish to look at during your discussion.

1. Were there ways the main characters honored God or failed to honor God? If so, briefly describe the situation, (chapter 34)

2. Were there ways the main characters honored family or failed to honor family? If so, briefly describe the situation, (chapter 35)

3. Were there ways the main characters respected life or failed to respect life? If so, briefly describe the situation, (chapter 36)

4. Were there ways the main characters respected truth and property or failed to respect truth and property? If so, briefly describe the situation, (chapter 37)

5. Were there ways the main characters respected sexuality or failed to respect sexuality? If so, briefly describe the situation, (chapter 38)

6. Were there ways the main characters worked for justice or failed to work for justice? If so, briefly describe the situation, (chapter 39)

7. Based on your answers to questions 1 through 6, which area of morality would you say the movie focused on the most?

8. Based on your discussion, what was the best moral decision one or more of the characters in the movie made?

