



Film clips with saintly themes

Jerry Maguire

Synopsis: This is a movie with Tom Cruise about Jerry Maguire, a sports agent, who in the beginning of the movie discovers the immorality of his job. He ends up losing his job and tries to survive as an honest agent with the help of a very loyal colleague.

** Please be aware that the film's age censorship is 15 and that it contains two mild sexual scenes. You might find it more appropriate to just use the scene recommended below.*

Clip: "Who's coming with me?"

This clip begins with Jerry Maguire leaving his office just after being fired. He has a change of heart and wants to be completely ethical in his business, and is now pleading for any other ethical person to leave the company and come to work with him. At the end of the scene, just when it looks as if no one will go with Jerry, Dorothy from accounting (the other main character) stands up and says "I will go with you." While all eyes are on her, and everyone else stays, Dorothy leaves her well-paid job behind to follow Jerry.

Questions for the Group:

- Is there a time when you felt you were the only one doing what was right?
- How did you feel when Dorothy stood up and joined Jerry in leaving the company?
- What would you miss most about your current life if God called you somewhere else?

Saint Anthony the Abbott

Following the death of his parents when he was about 20, he insured that his sister completed her education, and then sold his house, furniture, and the land he owned, gave the proceeds to the poor, joined the anchorites (religious hermits) who lived nearby, and moved into an empty sepulcher (a type of tomb). At the age of 35 he moved alone to the desert, living 20 years in an abandoned fort. He miraculously healed people, and agreed to be the spiritual counselor of others. Word spread, and so many disciples arrived that Anthony founded two monasteries.

Transformers

Synopsis: *Transformers* is a fun, action-packed movie based on the old cartoon we used to watch as kids. The movie is made by Michael Bay, and the special effects are incredible. Transformers is about a group of alien robots, whose civil war is brought to earth. A high school student who has certain artefacts in his possession becomes a very important part in the struggle between the two sides. Although the movie is relatively clean, there is a little bit of crude humour. Age censorship is 12.

Clip: "You'll want to say you had the guts to get in the car."

Sam is a high school student who becomes involved with the Autobots (the good Transformers). He is being protected by an Autobot named Bumblebee, who in the clip has just been in a battle with one of the Decepticons (the bad Transformers). At this point, Sam has his first conversation with Bumblebee. At the end of the scene, after explaining to Sam that the Transformers are alien robots from another planet, Bumblebee transforms into a yellow car, opening the door for Sam and his friend Mikaela. Now Sam and Mikaela see a fork in the road: they can either enter the car and join the Autobots in a life-changing adventure, or walk away and go back to their 'normal' lives. After Sam's great last line, the two get in the car and drive away.

Questions for the group:

- What were the two choices Sam saw in front of him?
- How are Sam and Mikaela's lives going to be different since they decided to get into the car?
- Is there anything in your life that keeps you from being able to fully follow Christ? What kinds of things do you need to leave behind?

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

He was a Polish priest who was captured by the Gestapo during the Second World War and placed in a concentration camp. In July 1941 a man from Kolbe's barracks vanished, prompting the deputy camp commander, to pick 10 men from the same barracks to be starved to death in Block 13 (notorious for torture), in order to deter further escape attempts. (The man who had disappeared was later found drowned in the camp latrine.) One of the selected men, Franciszek Gajowniczek, cried out, lamenting his family, and Kolbe volunteered to take his place. During the time in the cell he led the men in songs and prayer. After three weeks of dehydration and starvation, only Kolbe and three others were still alive. Finally he was murdered with an injection of carbolic acid.

Armageddon

Synopsis: A giant, global-killing asteroid, like the one that killed off the dinosaurs 65 million years ago is 18 days away from hitting the Earth. NASA's been caught sleeping and needs a quick plan to stop the rock. They enlist the help of Harry Stamper, an expert deep core driller, to train their astronauts and help them drill into the asteroid and plant a nuclear bomb. But Harry figures the astronauts can't be trained in time and opts to go with his own oil drilling crew.

Clip: "Scene 24, Drawing Straws"

The crew has been told that the remote detonator on the bomb that would blow up the meteor has malfunctioned and it must be blown up manually. Ben Affleck's character, A.J., draws the short straw and has to go sacrifice himself for the rest of the world. Bruce Willis' character, Harry, pushes A.J. out of the way and saves the world himself.

Questions for the Group:

- What is the kindest thing you have ever done for someone else?
- What / who would you die for?
- If you only had time for one more kind act, what would it be?

Saint Stephen

Stephen's name means "crown," and he was the first disciple of Jesus to receive the martyr's crown. Stephen was a deacon in the early Christian Church. The apostles had found that they needed helpers to look after the care of the widows and the poor. So they ordained seven deacons, and Stephen is the most famous of these.

God worked many miracles through St. Stephen and he spoke with such wisdom and grace that many of his hearers became followers of Jesus. The enemies of the Church of Jesus were furious to see how successful Stephen's preaching was. At last, they laid a plot for him. They got men to lie about him, saying that he had spoken sinfully against God.

St. Stephen faced a great assembly of enemies. He spoke to them about Jesus. At that, they rose up in great anger and shouted at him. But Stephen looked up to Heaven and said that he saw the heavens opening and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. His enemies dragged St. Stephen outside the city of Jerusalem and stoned him to death. The saint prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he fell to his knees and begged God not to punish his enemies for killing him.