

Heroes of Scripture and Screen:

Moses and Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark

After watching the movie, read these **questions** and the Bible passage and talk about them as a family. It's best to do this right after watching the movie but you can also do it in the next day or so. The conversation could take anywhere from 10-20 minutes but we hope that it sparks an interest in noticing and sharing God throughout your daily life.

A Moment to Remember: Which moment in the movie did you like the most? Why?

Read this passage from the Bible (Exodus 3:1-8 NRSV):

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

*If you have the time, take a look at this Venn Diagram and talk about whether it lines up with how you interpret the scripture and the movie (or just skip to the rest of the **questions**):*

Moses

Has a pet snake/staff.

Faces off against Pharaoh who is cruelly enslaving the Israelites (who's forbear Joseph happened to save all of Egypt hundreds of years ago).

Have a checkered past.

Searching for meaning.

Answer the call to fight oppression.

Would be lost without their female companions.

Find the presence of God and treat it with reverence.

Indiana Jones

Terrified of snakes.

Faces off against Nazis who are bent on establishing their terrible rule across the globe by any means necessary—even by corrupting sacred items.

Theme in Scripture – God’s Presence:

In what becomes a recurring theme in his life, Moses first enters God’s presence at the burning bush. Moses has already lived a full life at this point, but his adventure is just beginning. Along the way, he will be afraid, courageous, stubborn, open, inspired, and inspiring but he will return again and again to God’s presence. Moses meets God in a bush, on top of a mountain, in the wilderness, in a tent and often when he is not looking for God; or so he thinks. **What does it mean to be in God’s presence? Where does it happen? When does it happen?**

Theme on the Screen – God’s Presence:

Indiana Jones is no Moses but they are both heroes with a checkered past and a lot of character. They both rely heavily on a Miriam or a Marion, they both have an interesting relationship with snakes, they both search high and low for meaning, and they both come to understand their place before God. While Moses, in Scripture, receives the 10 Commandments and places them in the Ark of the Covenant, Indiana Jones, in the fictional *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, finds the ark thousands of years later. What hasn’t changed in all that time is what the ark means. It represents God’s place among the people. That place is holy as God is holy and by accepting and respecting our place on that “holy ground” we can be holy too. On the flip side of the medallion, disrespecting or attempting to exploit that holiness for our own purposes has dire consequences. **What does Indiana Jones finally realize about the ark, which he has fought so hard to see inside of, that makes him close his eyes?**

The Scene that Says it All: Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of God’s presence. Why? *(Is it when Marion and Indie close their eyes while the ark is opened, or when the Nazi symbol is burned off the crate the ark is inside, or another scene?)*

Bonus question: Where would you put the Ark of the Covenant?

- A) “It belongs in a museum!” (the Indiana Jones answer)
- B) In an unmarked crate in a huge government warehouse.
- C) In your living room.
- D) In the place where you found it because it’s not your ark.