

Heroes of Scripture and Screen: John and Into the Spider-Verse

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 (Matthew 4:19-25 NRSV):

And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

*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**):*

John

A disciple with enormous potential.

His brother is also a disciple.

Witnesses the resurrection of his hero—Jesus.

A Teenager.

Member of a ragtag team on an important mission.

Witnesses the death of his hero.

Carries on his hero's legacy.

Miles

A brand-new superhero with amazing abilities.

His uncle is also super, but the villain type.

Helps an alternate version of his hero resurrect his former life.

INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

Theme in Scripture – Calling:

There's some debate as to whether John the disciple and apostle is also the author of John's Gospel, and a few other books of the Bible. With or without that extra distinction, the John we hear about throughout the gospels is extraordinary. First off, he's widely regarded as the youngest disciple—just a teenager when he accepts Jesus' call. The scripture passage tells of how Jesus called the disciples who fished for a living to now fish for people. They had no idea what they were getting into. For the young John it means being part of the action in so many amazing moments from Jesus' ministry like raising Jairus' daughter from the dead, the Transfiguration, a center seat at the Last Supper, standing at the foot of Jesus' cross, adopting Mary as his new mother, finding the empty tomb, and the miraculous catch of fish with the resurrected Jesus which was so much like the moment Jesus called John in the first place. Oh yeah, he also goes on to lead the new church for decades after participating in the Pentecost.

Who or what did all of this experience prepare John to be? What is unique about the apostle that John becomes?

Theme on the Screen – Calling:

In the movie, Miles goes from an awkward kid who loves hanging out with his uncle to Spiderman. He goes through so much to get him from point A to point B. A lot of what he goes through is tragic. Before he even realizes who he's becoming, he watches the original Spiderman die, but not before that Spiderman calls him into action. Peter Parker was able to see who Miles Morales could become and trusts in him to ultimately become that hero. The splitting open of the multi-verse, or Spider-Verse, gives him close companions to learn with and from but it also gives him the urgent mission of getting those companions home. He also discovers that his beloved uncle is a villain only to lose that uncle moments after his redemption, saving Miles. Miles experiences miracles, wonders, triumphs, betrayals, death, and new life.

Who or what did all of this experience prepare Miles to be? What is unique about the superhero that Miles becomes?

The Scene that Says it All: Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of Calling? Why? *(Is it when Miles meets Peter Parker, or when Miles gets Peter B. Parker to train him, or when Miles meets Gwen, or when Miles meets Aunt May, or when Miles masters his powers, or another scene?)*

Bonus question: Which is your favorite spider hero of the Spider-verse? Why?