




**Popcorn Peacemaking is a
peaceCENTER program that uses
popular, readily available videos to
explore the history and principles
of peace and justice.**

Each study guide for the series consists of a brief historical or contextual overview, an explanation of why the film was selected, recommended excerpts for showing and several suggested discussion questions.

We have tried to select videos that are suitable for all audiences. However, one of the contradictions of nonviolence is that it is often practiced in violent situations. Many of the videos have an R Rating. In all cases, the teacher or discussion leader should watch the entire film and decide on its suitability for the intended audience.

If time permits, it is ideal to show the entire film to the group. However, given that most videos are at least two hours long and time is needed for reflection and discussion, the peaceCENTER has selected excerpts from the videos. When time is short, these excerpts can be shown in lieu of airing the entire video and the whole film can be shown at a more convenient time, or participants can be encouraged to borrow, rent or buy the video for later viewing with family or friends. The times of the excerpts are approximate. If there is only time to show

one excerpt the "best choice" is usually marked with an eyeglass icon 

If the entire film is not shown to the group, the discussion leader should introduce the clip with a few sentences that put it in context.

In addition to the specific discussion questions, there is also a general question and answer format for discussing movies.

Most of these films can be rented from video rental stores, or can be checked out of the local library. Most of the videos are available for check out from the Arun and Sunanda Gandhi Peace and Justice Resource Center (call 210/224-HOPE to arrange for pickup) and many can be purchased at the peaceCENTER online bookstore, in association with Amazon.com (www.salsa.net/peace/amazon).

This project will be under constant development, so if you have any suggestions, please forward them to the peaceCENTER at the address below. E-Mail comments and suggestions can be sent to suives@texas.net.

**Focused on a mission of God's Peace, the peaceCENTER supports
the learning of peace in our lives
and the demonstration of peace within our community.**

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Popcorn Peacemaking

Question Format for Movie Conversations

This format was developed in order to “spiral” a conversation down to a deeper level and to explore what a movie might have to say to us as individuals and as a society.

The format begins with questions that everybody can answer - the facilitator should make sure that everyone gets at *least* one response in at the objective level, this makes it easier for participants to choose to participate at the “harder” question levels.

All of the questions listed are suggestions - once you get the idea of the kind of question that belongs in each category you can make up your own. Ask questions only for as long as you want that part of the conversation to last - you don’t have to ask *all* the questions!

It is suggested that the facilitator watch the movie first, walk through the process/sample questions and then create your list of possible questions for each level.

When facilitating the conversation, when you feel like the group is ready to move on to a deeper level in the conversation you ask a deeper question and skip the rest of the questions you have at that level.

Objective

(What do you remember?)

What words do you remember, sounds, music...?

What scene is still playing in your head?

Who were the main characters - their names/relationships?

Reflective

(What happened?)

Were you surprised at anything the characters said, did...?

At what point did the audience/you laugh? Why?

Did you find yourself looking around to see if anyone was crying? When?

How did this movie make you feel? Frustrated, angry, elated... Why?

Interpretive

(What was this movie all about?)

What was the creator of the movie trying to say? or What did the movie say?

Is there a bigger story behind the movie?

Why do you think the creator made the movie?

What questions were raised for you?

What social/political/psychological statement was made?

Have you seen anything like this happen in your life?

Decisional

(What relevance does this movie have to my life?)

Who did you identify with? Why?

Is it relevant/true/happening today? Why..?

Is this an issue that you, personally, would like to see something done about? What could be done?

Has the issue been addressed in other places or times?

If you were going to begin to exert your influence to change things, what would you do? What could you do?

Books

☑ **Saint Paul at the Movies: The Apostle's Dialog with American Culture** by Robert Jewett, Westminster, 1993

A Christian context of 11 movies of the '80s, offering a fresh look at both the movies and New Testament theology.

☑ **Finding Meaning at the Movies**, by Sara Anson Vaux, Abingdon, 1999

Thoughtful commentary on a number of popular and award-winning films is refreshing in its heavy emphasis on "values" and critical "issues"

☑ **Lights Camera .. Faith! A Movie Lectionary - Cycle A**, by Peter Malone and Rose Pacatte, Pauline Books and Media, 2001

Explores 72 films in the light of Christian scripture.

Reel Spirituality : Theology and Film in Dialogue by Robert K. Johnston, Baker Book House, 2000

Guide Christian moviegoers into a theological analysis of and conversation with film

Praying the Movies: Daily Meditations from Classic Films, by Ed McNulty, Geneva Press, 2001

31 devotions that connect movies with the spiritual life of movie goers.

Web Sites

www.signis.net

The international Catholic association for communications includes current jury prizes for film festivals and reviews.

www.pauline.com/mediastudies

Media literacy in faith communities, includes some in-depth movie reviews and links,

sponsored by the Daughters of St. Paul.

www.HollywoodJesus.com

This ecumenical web site is dedicated to finding Christian spirituality in movies with searchable archive

http://www.catholic.org.au

Four film reviews a month from the Australian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

www.chiafilm.com

This site is named for *Chiaroscuro*, the interplay of light and shade in an image and seeks to move beyond the culture wars and encourage a conversation between the cinema and Christian spirituality. Contains new reviews, retrospectives and essays.

www.beliefnet.com

Comparative religion community, includes movie reviews

www.cityofangelsfilmfest.org

Inter-faith film festival site with reviews, resources and events

www.geocities.com/~polfilms/

The Political Film Society recognizes outstanding achievement in raising political consciousness about democracy, exposé, human rights, and peace. Lots of reviews.

www.spiritualityhealth.com

Fred and Mary Brussat offer an e-course, "Going to the Movies as a Spiritual Practice" as well as current film and video reviews with searchable database

www.FilmClipsOnLine.com

"Is there a place for popular culture in thoughtful and sacred spaces?" Hollywood filmmaker Michael Rhodes and industry colleagues and educators offer clips from popular films to use

in educational settings.

www.christianitytoday.com/ctmag/features/columns/filmforum.html

Christian film reviews that integrate and analyze commentaries from several sources, both religious and from the mainstream press

www.unomaha.edu/~wwwjrff/

Articles and reviews by the Journal of Religion and Film, University of Nebraska at Omaha

www.christiancritic.com

The Christian critic's movie parables.

www.textweek.com

Sermon helps with a movie concordance for the Catholic and Anglican lectionaries

www.udayton.edu/maryl/

This site features the videos on Mary and Marian subjects archived by the University of Dayton's Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute.

www.bravo.ca/scanningthemovies

Canada's BRAVO! Channel presents a media education perspective based on the television program, "Scanning the Movies", hosted by Neil Anderson and Father John Pungente, S.J., with study guides.

www.IMDb.org

The Internet Movie Databases is the largest movie archive on the web and includes industry information and a multitude of links to sources and reviews.

www.suntimes.com/index/ebert.html

Movie critic Roger Ebert's current film reviews since 1985.



Popcorn Peacemaking

Films

- In the Peace and Justice Library
- Study Guide Available
- Especially suitable for young children

1969 (1988) (R)

The death of a young man is the catalyst needed to bridge the gap between father and son and enlighten them both to the true cost of war.

1984 (1984) (R)

George Orwell's novel of a totalitarian future society in which a man whose daily work is rewriting history tries to rebel by falling in love. With Richard Burton

4 Little Girls (1997) (NR)

Recounts the people and events leading up to the one of the most despicable hate-crimes during the height of the civil-rights movement, the bombing of the 16th Street Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Spike Lee.

Absolution (1978) (R)

Richard Burton plays a priest in a British Catholic school who goes mad when he cannot report a murder he learned about in confession. Weird movie.

Alamo Bay (1985) (R)

A despondent Vietnam veteran in danger of losing his livelihood is pushed to the edge when he sees Vietnamese immigrants moving into the fishing industry in a Texas bay town. .

All Quiet on the Western Front (1930, 1979)

A young German soldier faces profound disillusionment in the soul-destroying horror of World War I.

Amadeus (1984) (PG)

The incredible story of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, told in flashback mode by Antonio Salieri - now confined to an insane asylum.

Amazing Grace and Chuck (1987)

After taking a tour of a nuclear silo, Chuck decides to quit playing little league until nuclear weapons are disarmed.

Amelie (2001) (R)

A single waitress who decides to help other lonely people fix their lives. French, with subtitles.

American History X (1998) (R)

A former neo-nazi skinhead tries to prevent his younger brother from going down the same wrong path that he did.

American Beauty (1999) (R)

Chronicles the last year in the life of 42 year-old hack magazine writer , a suburban loser that has had it with his humdrum life and decides to make a few changes to regain control.

American Me (1992) (R)

Gang Violence in Los Angeles.

Angel and the Badman (1947)

A wounded gunslinger is nursed by a Quaker family When he falls in love with their daughter he has to decide whether to forsake his violent life. John Wayne.

Amistad (1997)

Fact-based story of the 1839 revolt by Africans on the slave ship Amistad and their subsequent trial when they are taken on American soil.

And Justice for All (1979) (R)

A satirical drama that looks at our judicial system.

Animal Farm (1955 and 1999)

George Orwell's classic satire on Stalinism, with the animals taking over their farm by means of a revolutionary coup, but then discovering that although all animals are supposed to be equal, some are more equal than others. Animated, but not for young children.

The Apostle (1997)

A womanizing Pentecostal minister who is forced to leave his Texas home (and church) after committing a violent act. Fascinating study of a wayward man's journey to understand his life, and the many people who help him find his way.

Apt Pupil (1998) (R)

A bright schoolboy discovers a wanted Nazi war criminal is living in his town and blackmails him into telling stories ("everything they're afraid to show us in school") of the horrors of the Holocaust.

At Play in the Fields of the Lord (1991)

Missionaries travel to the Brazilian rain forest and make a mess of everything.

Au revoir les enfants (1987)

A French boarding school run by priests seems to be a haven from World War II until a new student arrives.

- Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (1974)**
 Story of a black woman in the South who was born into slavery in the 1850s and lives to become a part of the civil rights movement in the 1960s.
- ☑️😊 **Babe (1995)**
 Babe is a little pig who doesn't quite know his place in the world and learns that a pig can be anything that he wants to be.
- ☑️😊 **Babe: Pig in the City (1998)**
 Sequel - Babe in the big city.
- Babette's Feast (1987)**
 Babette prepares the feast of a lifetime for the members of a tiny Danish Protestant church.
- ☑️😊 **The Basket (1999) (PG)**
 A Pacific Northwest community raising its wheat and children in the midst of a nation reeling from World War I
- ☑️😊 **Beauty and the Beast (1983) (NR)**
 Beauty discovers that ugliness can disguise great goodness. Faerie Tale Theater.
- ☑️ **Behind the Lines (1998) (R)**
 Based on true events, a pioneering psychiatrist works with shell-shocked WWI soldiers in a gentle, humane manner that contrasts sharply with the brutality of his colleagues.
- ☑️ **Being Human (1994) (PG-13)**
 Robin Williams stars in five stories, each one taking place during a different historical period. He's either losing or looking for his family.
- ☑️ **Beloved (1998)**
 Life of Sethe, a former slave who has rebuilt what seems to be a peaceful, productive life in Ohio.
- ☑️ **Billy Elliott (2000)**
 A talented young boy becomes torn between his unexpected love of dance and the disintegration of his family.
- ☑️ **Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace (2000)**
 About the struggles and martyrdom of a Lutheran pastor during WWII.
- ☑️ **Birth of a Nation (1915) (NR)**
 The consequences of the War in the lives of two brothers are shown in connection to major historical events, like the development of the Civil War itself, Lincoln's assassination, and the birth of the Ku Klux Klan. A silent movie classic, crippled by racism of the time.
- ☑️ **Born on the Fourth of July (1989)**
 The biography of Ron Kovic. Paralyzed in the Vietnam war, he becomes an anti-war and pro-human rights political activist after feeling betrayed by the country he fought
- Bound for Glory (1975)**
 Biography of legendary folk singer Woody Guthrie, the Depression-era vagabond whose working class music affected generations.
- Brazil (1985) (R)**
 An unrelentingly imaginative and savage vision of 20th-century bureaucracy.
- ☑️ **Bright Shining Lie (1998) (R)**
 Based on Neil Sheehan's controversial book about the making of the Vietnam war.
- ☑️ **Brother Sun, Sister Moon (1973)**
 Story of St. Francis of Assisi.
- ☑️😊 **A Bug's Life (1998)**
 A misfit ant, looking for warriors to save his colony from grasshoppers, recruits a group of bugs that turn out to be an inept circus troupe.
- ☑️ **The Burning Season (1994) (R)**
 Activist Chico Mendes is murdered while fighting to protect his people in the Amazon rain forest.
- Chariots of Fire (1981)**
 Two British track athletes, one a determined Jew, and the other a devout Christian, compete in the 1924 Olympics.
- ☑️😊 **Charlotte's Web (1973) (G)**
 This animated feature based on the popular E.B. White book for children—about the special relationships between Wilbur the pig, Charlotte the spider, and Templeton the rat—is a straight adaptation from the page, with songs added.
- ☑️😊 **Chicken Run (2000)**
 Our plucky heroines face a lifetime of hard labor laying for the farmers, and if their performance is not up to par they quite literally face the chop. Ginger, making her way to the top of the pecking order attempts jailbreak after farcical jailbreak, but success is less than forthcoming.
- ☑️ **Children of a Lesser God (1986) (R)**
 A deaf and a hearing world trying to survive after they join in love.
- Children of Heaven (1997)**
 Two poor Iranian children share a pair of shoes.
- ☑️ **Chinatown (1974) (R)**
 L. A private eye led into a complex, volatile case by femme fatale, but also has an interesting side plot about water rights.
- ☑️ **Children of Rage (1977) (PG)**
 A Palestinian family torn apart by the Middle East conflict
- ☑️ **Chocolat (2001)**
 1960, small town France. a woman and her daughter move into town and open a chocolate shop just as Lent is beginning.

- The Christmas Coal Mine Miracle (1977) (NR)**
Tragedy strikes a small mining community one fateful Christmas Eve in 1951 when a series of explosions strike a mine notorious for its unsafe conditions.
- City of Joy (1992)**
An American surgeon loses a young patient, quits the medical profession and goes to India to find himself.
- Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977) (PG)**
A line worker, after an encounter with UFO's, feels undeniably drawn to an isolated area in the wilderness where something spectacular is about to happen.
- The Color of Courage (1999)**
1940's Sipes v. McGhee trial - the case which considered the question of the legality of restrictive deed covenants which created segregated neighborhoods and kept blacks out of all white neighborhoods.
- The Color of Paradise (1981)**
A father is estranged from his son, a student at Tehran's Institute for the Blind.
- Commandments (1997) (R)**
Aidan Quinn plays a man so aggrieved by his misfortunes that he vows to break each of God's Ten Commandments in revenge. But even that act of profound defiance doesn't quite work out the way he planned, and the character undergoes a mythic--some would say biblical--experience of a different kind.
- Crimes and Misdemeanors (1989)**
A provocative and unsettling study of divergent moralities and the price we're willing to pay to preserve our personal comfort and happiness.
- Crisis at Central High (1981)**
Events surrounding the 1957 integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- The Crucible (1996) (PG-13)**
An adaptation of the famous play concerning the Salem witch trials.
- Cry Freedom (1987)**
A white newspaper editor befriends South African Black political activist Steve Biko.
- Cry, the Beloved Country (1995)**
The lives of a black, country priest and a white wealthy landowner in South Africa in the 1940's. Themes of religion, politics, faith, healing, mercy and justice.
- Dance With the White Dog (1993) (PG)**
When Sam Peek's beloved wife, Cora, dies, a white dog suddenly materializes as his new companion and confidant. Sam takes the dog on a nostalgic journey which dramatizes the fulfillment he shared with his departed wife.
- Dances with Wolves (1990)**
About an idealistic young Civil War soldier who makes friends with a Sioux Indian tribe and, becomes one of them.
- Dead Poets Society (1989)**
Robin Williams is a charismatic English teacher at a staid New England prep school in 1959, whose infectious love of poetry--and insistence that each boy "seize the day" and make the most of life--inspires his impressionable students, not always in the right direction.
- Dead Man Walking (R) (1995)**
Based on the book by Sr. Helen Prejean, examines the issue of capital punishment from a humanitarian perspective, and urges thoughtful reflection on the justifications for legally ending a human life.
- Death and the Maiden (R) (1994)**
A political activist is convinced that her guest is a man who once tortured her.
- Diary of Ann Frank (1959)**
Harrowing story of a young Jewish girl who, with her family and their friends is forced into hiding in an attic in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam.
- ☺ Digging to China (1998)**
A small girl befriends a retarded man.
- Divided We Fall (2000) (PG-13)**
Czech with English Subtitles. Captures the pervasive suspicion and betrayal of World War II through the unexpected guise of situation comedy.
- Do the Right Thing (1989) (R)**
On a hot day on a New York City street, everyone's hate and bigotry smolders and builds until it explodes into violence.
- Don Quixote (2000)**
The classic tale of a man's dream, his epic journey, and one true love.
- Down Came a Blackbird (1995)**
A journalist struggling to regain control of her life a year after she was abducted and tortured in Central America. She goes to a clinic for survivors of torture, where she reflects on her experiences and learns about others who have suffered similar experiences.
- A Dry White Season (1989) (R)**
When his gardener's son is brutally beaten by the police at a demonstration by black school children, a schoolteacher in South Africa begins to realize his society is built on a pillar of injustice and exploitation.
- Dr. Strangelove (1964)**
At the height of the cold war, a black comedy about the arms race and nuclear holocaust.

- Entertaining Angels - The Dorothy Day Story (1996)**
Dorothy Day's spiritual evolution from a journalist and suffragette in Greenwich Village to her conversion to Roman Catholicism and her devotion to helping the poor.
- Erin Brockovich (2000) (R)**
An unemployed single mother becomes a legal assistant and almost single-handedly brings down a California power company accused of polluting a city's water supply.
- E.T. (1982)**
A group of Earth children help a stranded alien botanist return home
- Eva Peron (1996) (R)**
An Argentinian-made film of the life of Eva Peron.
- Evita (1996) (R)**
A musical telling of the life of Argentinian actress and kingmaker, Eva Peron. Starring Madonna.
- Fahrenheit 451 (1966)**
Based on the 1951 Ray Bradbury novel, a firefighter lives in a lonely, isolated society where books have been outlawed by a government fearing an independent-thinking public.
- A Farewell to Arms (1932)**
Hemingway's WWI love story also analyses Lt. Henry's feelings on war and the purpose of fighting.
- Fat Man and Little Boy (1989) (PG-13)**
History of the Manhattan Project, the atomic testing project that led to the U.S. bombing of Japan during World War II.
- Field of Dreams (1989)**
An Iowa corn farmer, hearing voices, interprets them as a command to build a baseball diamond in his fields; he does, and the Chicago Black Sox come.
- Fire on the Amazon (1993) (R)**
Struggle among ranchers, rubber tappers and loggers for the fate of the Amazon.
- The Fisher King (1991) (R)**
A radio DJ, suicidally despondent because of a horrible mistake he made, finds redemption in helping a deranged homeless man who was a victim of it.
- ☺Fly Away Home (1996)**
A father and daughter decide to attempt to lead a flock of orphaned Canada Geese south by air.
- Forrest Gump (1994)**
Unlikely story of a slow-witted but good-hearted man somehow at the center of the pivotal events of the 20th century.
- ☺Freedom Song (2000)**
A fictionalized account of the civil rights movement.
- ☰Gandhi (1982)**
Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor Oscars. Sweeping account of the life and times of Mohandas K. Gandhi.
- Gentleman's Agreement (1947)**
A reporter pretends to be Jewish in order to cover a story on anti-Semitism, and personally discovers the true depths of bigotry and hatred.
- Ghosts of Mississippi (1996) (PG-13)**
Alec Baldwin stars as a lawyer in this true story of the re-trial of the murderer of civil rights leader Medgar Evers.
- Girl, Interrupted (2000) (R)**
A young woman is involuntarily committed to a mental institution in 1967 and decides that the inmates are saner than the war-torn world outside..
- The Glass Menagerie (1987) (PG)**
A son longs to escape from his stifling home, where his genteel mother worries about the future prospects of his lame, shy sister.
- The God's Must be Crazy (1980)**
A bushman in the Kalahari encounters technology for the first time - in the shape of a Coke bottle.
- ☺The Goodbye Bird (1993)**
Boy accused of stealing a parrot ends up starting an animal shelter.
- Gorillas in the Mist (1988) (PG-13)**
The story of Dian Fossey, a scientist who came to Africa to study the vanishing mountain gorillas, and later fought to protect them.
- The Grapes of Wrath (1940) (NR)**
A poor mid-west family are forced off their land and travel to California, suffering the misfortunes of the homeless in the Great Depression.
- The Greatest Story Ever Told (1965) (NR)**
The life of Jesus Christ
- The Green Mile (1999)**
The story about the lives of guards on death row leading up to the execution of a wrongly accused man who has the power of faith healing.
- Harlan County War (1982)**
A Kentucky woman whose mine-worker husband is nearly killed in a cave-in, and whose father is slowly dying of black lung disease, joins the picket lines for a long, violent strike.
- ☺Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (2001) (PG)**
Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

☑☺ **Harvest of Fire (1982)**

A female FBI agent comes to a distrustful Amish community to investigate a multiple building arson incident.

☑ **Heat Wave (R) (1990)**

An African-American messenger working for the L.A. Times plays a key role in winning the newspaper a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the 1965 Watts riots.

☑ **The Hiding Place (1975)**

Corrie Ten Boom, a middle-aged Dutch watchmaker's daughter, became a heroine of the Resistance and aids Jews in WWII.

☑ **The Horse Whisperer (1998)**

The mother of a severely traumatized daughter enlists the aid of a unique horse trainer to help the girl's equally injured horse.

☑ **The Hurricane (1999)**

The story of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a boxer wrongly imprisoned for murder, and the people who aided in his fight to prove his innocence.

☑ **I Am Sam (2001) (PG-13)**

A mentally retarded man fights for custody of his 7-year-old daughter, and in the process teaches his cold-hearted lawyer the value of love and family.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (1979)

Based on writer Maya Angelou's childhood, this story is about a young girl in the South who is sent to live with her grandmother after her parents divorce.

☑ **I Will Fight No More Forever (1975)**

A chronicle of the war between the United States Army and the Nez Perce, Chief Joseph.

☑ **In the Name of the Father (1993) (R)**

Man's coerced confession to an IRA bombing he didn't do imprisons his father as well; a British lawyer helps fight for their freedom.

☑ **In the Presence of Mine Enemies (1996)**

A Rabbi in the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland in 1942 fights to maintain his stance of peace and acceptance of his fellow man despite the growing turmoil and atrocities created by the Nazis.

☑ **In This House of Brede (1975) (NR)**

A well-to-do London businesswoman (Diana Rigg) gives up her comfortable life to become a cloistered Benedictine nun. Based on the Rumor Godden novel.

☑☺ **Indian in the Cupboard (1995)**

A sensitive boy discovers a way to bring plastic toys to life in a locked cupboard.

☑ **Inherit the Wind (1960, 1999)**

Based on a real-life case in 1925, two great lawyers argue the case for and against a science teacher accused of the crime of teaching evolution.

☑☺ **The Iron Giant (1999)**

A boy makes friends with an innocent alien giant robot that a paranoid government agent wants to destroy.

☑ **It's the Rage (1999)**

Handguns figure in the intertwining lives of nine people.

☑ **Jakob the Liar (1999)**

Without ever really owning a radio, Jakob begins to falsely create stories to please the ghetto. By doing this, Jakob lifts the morale of the ghetto but also places the entire population in danger from the German army.

Jesus of Montreal (1990)

A group of actors put on an unorthodox Passion Play which incites the opposition of the Catholic Church while the actors' lives themselves begin to mirror the Passion itself.

Jesus' Son (1999)

A young man turns from drug addiction and petty crime to a life redeemed by a discovery of compassion.

☑ **Joan of Arc (1948, 1999)**

A young girl receives a vision that drives her to rid France of its oppressors.

☑ **John Q (2002) (PG-13)**

A down-on-his luck father, whose insurance won't cover his son's heart transplant, takes the hospital's emergency room hostage until the doctors agree to perform the operation.

☑ **Jonah, Who will be 25 in the Year 2000 (1976)**

Literate, engaging comedy about eight individuals affected by the political events of the late '60s in France.

☑ **Judgment at Nuremberg (1961)**

American judges try Nazi war criminals.

☑ **To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)**

Powerfully resonant film in its advocacy of tolerance, justice, integrity, and loving, responsible parenthood.

☑ **Kundun (1997)**

True story of the 14th Dalai Lama and his exile from Tibet. About how to be nonviolent when your culture celebrates violence.

☑ **The Killing Fields (1984) (R)**

New York Times journalist covering the tragedy and madness of the civil war in Cambodia with a local representative.

- ☑ **Lakota Woman: Siege at Wounded Knee (1994) (NR)**
The daughter of a desperately poor Indian family in South Dakota is swept up in the protests of the 1960s and becomes sensitized to the injustices that society inflicts on her people. Based on autobiography.
- The Last Temptation of Christ (1988) (R)**
At his execution, Jesus is tempted by an alluring image of a peaceful and pleasant life with Mary Magdalene to try to get him to refuse the sacrifice he must make.
- ☑ **Lean on Me (1989)**
The story of “Crazy Joe” Clark, the real-life baseball bat, bullhorn toting high school principal from New Jersey who whips his students into shape by bolstering and bullying them.
- ☑ **Le Chambon: La Colline Aux Mille Enfants (1997)**
Based on the true story of a French village, which under the guidance of its Protestant pastor saved more than 5,000 Jewish children from the Nazis.
- ☑ **The Legend of Bagger Vance (2000) (PG-13)**
A down-and-out golfer attempts to recover his game and his life with help from a mystical caddy.
- ☑ **Life is Beautiful (1998)**
A Jew in a concentration camp in Italy stages an elaborate ruse to shield his young son from the horror.
- A Lesson Before Dying (1999)**
Young black man in 1948 executed for murder, based on award-winning novel.
- ☑ **Liam (2000) (R)**
A morality tale of xenophobia, religious prejudice, mob violence, poverty, and their effect on two children in Liverpool during the Depression.
- ☑ **Little Buddha (1993) (PG)**
A Tibetan monk hears that an American boy may be the reincarnation of an important lama, Siddhartha, the Indian prince who renounced worldly pleasures and religious extremism to find the Middle Way of Buddhist truth.
- ☑ **Local Hero (1983)**
An American oil company sends a man to Scotland to buy up an entire village where they want to build a refinery.
- ☑ **The Long Walk Home (1991)**
A story set against the backdrop of the emerging civil rights movement and the Montgomery Bus Boycott of the 1950s South.
- ☑ **Losing Isaiah (1995) (R)**
Halle Berry is a crack user who abandons her baby then wants him back.
- ☑ **Magnolia (1999) (R)**
A mosaic of misery, with an array of characters-ranging from a dying man and his angelic male nurse to a precocious kid pressured to perform on a TV game show-who must deal with anger, guilt, isolation, the sins of the fathers, and ultimately, forgiveness, on an almost Biblical level.
- ☑ **Malcolm X (1992)**
Faithful and moving adaptation of the Autobiography of Malcolm X.
- ☑ **Mama Flora’s Family (1998)**
Based on a story by Alex Haley, traces the story of an African-American family from 1900 to the present.
- A Man for All Seasons (1966) (NR)**
Standoff between King Henry VIII and Sir Thomas More about morals vs. practicality.
- ☑ **Mandela and DeKlerk (1997) (PG-13)**
Mandela's 30-year odyssey from opponent of apartheid to president of South Africa. Sidney Poitier as Mandela; Michael Caine as DeKlerk.
- ☑ **A Map of the World (1999)**
After an accident on her property involving a friend's child, the town turns against her and Alice finds herself fighting charges of child abuse.
- ☑ **Master Harold and the Boys (1985) (PG-13)**
Based on the play by Athol Fugard, set in 1950 South Africa a young man turns vicious towards two family servants.
- Matewan (1987)**
A labor union organizer comes to an embattled mining community brutally and violently dominated and harassed by the mining company.
- ☑ **The Matrix (1999)**
A computer hacker learns from mysterious rebels about the true nature of his reality and his role in the war against the controllers of it.
- ☑ **A Merry War (1997)**
aka “Keep the Aspidistra Flying,” based on the essay by George Orwell. Comedy-satire about an advertising man who is captivated by the concept of offering his life to “art.”
- The Message (1988)**
Also called “Mohammed, Messenger of God,” about the birth of Islam.
- ☑ **Michael Collins (1996) (R)**
Controversial biography of IRA leader Michael Collins
- ☑ **Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc (1999) (R)**
A young girl receives a vision that drives her to rid France of its oppressors. Milla Jovovich as Joan, directed by Luc Besson

- Midnight Express (1978) (R)**
 True story of a man who is caught smuggling drugs out of Turkey and thrown into a barbaric prison.
- The Milagro Beanfield War (1988) (R)**
 Rural New Mexico community organizes to fight a ruthless and corrupt developer.
- The Miracle (1959) (NR)**
 During the war of 1812, a young nun leaves the convent to search for a series of romantic adventures, and during her journey the statue of the virgin Mary descends from the pedestal and takes the young nun's place until her return.
- The Miracle Worker (1962) (NR)**
 The story of Anne Sullivan's struggle to teach the blind and deaf Helen Keller how to communicate.
- ☺ **Miracle at Midnight (1998)**
 A Danish family are front-runners in a clandestine operation to transport over 7,000 Jews to neutral Sweden, while averting Nazi arrest.
- Les Misérables (1998)**
 A thief, redeemed by the power of love and forgiveness, has his past life exposed. With Liam Neeson.
- The Mission (1986)**
 About two Jesuit missionaries in 18th Century Brazil, western imperialism and conflicting styles in striving for noble goals.
- 📖 **Mississippi Burning (R) (1988)**
 Fictionalized account of the murder of three young civil rights workers who were part of a 1964 voter registration drive in Mississippi.
- Miss Evers' Boys (1997)**
 Program designed to treat syphilis among blacks in the South was twisted into an inhuman study.
- The Molly McGuires (1970)**
 In 1876 in Pennsylvania, a secret group of Irish emigrant miners, fights against the cruelty of the mining company with sabotage and murder.
- Moulin Rouge (2001) (PG-13)**
 A poet falls for a beautiful courtesan whom a jealous duke covets
- Mr. Holland's Opus (1996)**
 A musician grudgingly takes a job as a high school music teacher and is slow to recognize the impact he has on those around him.
- Murder in the First (1995) (R)**
 Inspired by a true story. A petty criminal sent to Alcatraz in the 1930s and put in solitary confinement. years, only to emerge a madman and soon to be a murderer. A rookie lawyer attempts to prove that Alcatraz was to blame.
- Music of the Heart (1999)**
 Biopic about Roberta Guaspari, a divorced mother of two who created an acclaimed music program in East Harlem's troubled school system.
- My Family (Mi Familia) (1995) (R)**
 Account of one family's struggle to stay together and survive the mean streets of East Los Angeles.
- My Own Country (1998) (R)**
 An East Indian doctor settles in Johnson City, Tennessee. and takes AIDS as his personal crusade..
- My Son the Fanatic (1997) (R)**
 A taxi driver can't understand why his son has turned to Muslim fundamentalism, calling the Western world of their corner of London corrupt and driven by sex.
- Native Son (1986)**
 A Black Chauffeur kills a white woman when he fears the consequences of being caught alone in a room with her.
- Nazarin (1958)**
 Nazarin is a priest, attempting to living a pure and honest life strictly according to Christian principles - but others only show him distrust. Directed by Luis Buñuel. Spanish with English subtitles.
- Nixon (1995) (R)**
 The story of Richard M. Nixon, former president of the United States whose presidency ended in disgrace.
- ☺ **No More Baths (1998)**
 Children use nonviolent protest to keep an old man from being evicted to make room for an upscale housing development.
- Noriega: God's Favorite (2000)**
 Account of the streetwise thug who brutalized his countrymen as the military ruler of Panama in the 1980s.
- Norma Rae (1979)**
 A young single mother agrees to help unionize her textile mill.
- Nuremberg (2000)**
 Trial of Nazi war criminals following the Allied victory in Europe in World War II.
- O Brother, Where Art Thou? (1992)**
 Nicks the plot line of Homer's *Odyssey* for a comic picaresque saga about three cons on the run in 1930s Mississippi.
- Of Mice and Men (1992)**
 Two drifters, one a gentle but slow giant, try to make money working the fields during the Depression so they can fulfill their dreams.
- The Official Story (1985) (R)**
 The collision of middle-class aspirations and government lies in Argentina

- ☑ **Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored (1996)**
A narrator tells the story of his childhood years in a tightly knit Afro-American community in the deep south under racial segregation.
- ☑ **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) (R)**
A man sent to a mental hospital finds the head nurse a lot more dangerous than the other patients.
- ☑ **One True Thing (1998)**
A career woman reassesses her parents' lives after she is forced to care for her cancer-stricken mother.
- ☑ **Ordinary People (1980) (R)**
Oscar Best Picture. Beth, Calvin, and their son Conrad are living in the aftermath of the death of the other son..
- The Ox Bow Incident (1943)**
Two drifters are passing through a Western town, when news comes in that a local farmer has been murdered and his cattle stolen.
- ☑☺ **Pay it Forward (2000)**
A young boy attempts to make the world a better place.
- ☑ **Philadelphia (1993)**
When a man with AIDS is fired by a conservative law firm because of his condition, he hires a homophobic small time lawyer as the only willing advocate for a wrongful dismissal suit..
- ☑ **Pleasantville (1998)**
1990s kids transported back into the sanitized world of 1950s sitcoms
- ☑ **The Power of One (1992)**
A man raised in an African orphanage uses boxing to bring education and fight apartheid in South Africa.
- ☑ **The Quiet Room (1997)**
A little girl becomes so tired and freaked out by her parents fighting that she decides not to speak.
- A Raisin in the Sun (1961)**
An African American family in Chicago struggles with mixed aspirations, not enough money, conflicts over religion, and institutional racism.
- ☑☺ **A Rat's Tale (1998) (G)**
When two young rats from different socio-economic levels meet, their true love must endure adventures, family disputes and the discovery of their own strengths before their life together can begin.
- ☑ **Reds (1981) (PG)**
The story of John Reed and Louise Bryant. See book, "The Education of John Reed."
- ☑☺ **Remember the Titans (2000)**
The true story of a newly appointed African-American coach and his high school team on their first season as a racially integrated unit.
- ☑ **Roger and Me (1989) (R)**
When a General Motors plant closes in Flint, MI, Michael Moore tries to track down GM chairman Roger B. Smith for an interview.
- ☑ **Romeo and Juliet (1999)**
Shakespeare's tragic tale about two young lovers and their warring families
- ☑📖 **Romero (1989)**
Vivid biography of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, who stood up for social justice and nonviolence.
- ☑ **Rosewood (1997) (R)**
Fact-based story of two neighboring Florida towns, circa 1922-23, and the festering racism that threatens to explode into violence and destroy a law-abiding Black community.
- ☺ **Ruby Bridges (1998)**
Disney movie about desegregation in the 1960s
- ☑ **Sadat (1989)**
A real-life, flawed, human who overcame a whole world of prejudice, somehow, in order to help change our world.
- ☑ **Salt of the Earth (1954) (NR)**
Based on an actual strike against the Empire Zinc Mine in New Mexico, the film deals with the prejudice against the Mexican-American workers, who struck to attain wage parity with Anglo workers in other mines and to be treated with dignity by the bosses.
- Salvador (1986) (R)**
True-life account of the violent civil war in El Salvador.
- ☑ **Sarafina! (1992)**
A bright young student who is inspired by her teacher (Whoopi Goldberg) to dream of a better tomorrow in South Africa.
- ☑☺ **Sarah Plain and Tall (1991) (G)**
A bright young student who is inspired by her teacher (Whoopi Goldberg) to dream of a better tomorrow in South Africa.
- Savior (1998) (R)**
Based on true accounts of the early '90s ethnic clashes between Serbia and neighboring states.
- ☑ **Schindler's List (R) (1993)**
Steven Spielberg's masterpiece about Catholic war profiteer Oskar Schindler, who risked his life and went bankrupt to save more than 1,000 Jews from certain death in concentration camps.

- ☑☺ **Secret of NIMH (1982) (G)**
To save her invalid son, a field mouse must seek the aid of a colony of super-intelligent rats.
- ☑ **Separate But Equal (1991)**
About Thurgood Marshall's arguing the historic Brown vs. Board of Education case in 1954.
- ☑ **Serving in Silence (1995)**
The true story of a decorated officer's legal challenge to her involuntary discharge when she admitted she was homosexual.
- ☑ **Seven Years in Tibet (1995)**
An Australian mountaineer/adventurer is selfish and arrogant--until he learns humility in Tibet.
- ☑ **Shadowlands (1993)**
British writer C. S. Lewis comfortable if rigid life as an Oxford don in the 1950s is shaken by his meeting with a forthright American poet, Joy Gresham.
- ☑ **Shadrach (1998)**
In 1935, 99-year-old former slave Shadrach asks to be buried on the soil where he was born to slavery.
- ☑ **The Shawshank Redemption (1994)**
Straight-arrow banker Robbins is railroaded for a double murder and sent to prison for life in the late 1940s.
- ☑☺ **Shrek (2001) (PG)**
A reclusive ogre and a chatterbox donkey go on a quest to rescue a princess for a tyrannical midget lord.
- ☑ **Silkwood (1983) (R)**
The story of Karen Silkwood, a nuclear reactor worker who might have been murdered to prevent her expose of wrongdoing at the power plant.
- ☑☺ **The Simpson's Christmas Special (1989) (NR)**
The Simpsons discover the true meaning of Christmas..
- ☑ **Skokie (1981)**
How a town became embroiled in a bitter controversy while trying to prevent street demonstrations by neo-Nazis in 1977.
- ☑ **Sophie's Choice (1982) (R)**
A Polish woman's attempt to justify her existence in America after surviving a living hell during WWII.
- ☑ **Smoke Signals (1988) (PG-13)**
A Polish woman's attempt to justify her existence in America after surviving a living hell during WWII
- ☑ **A Soldier's Story (1984) (PG)**
Brilliantly intense adaptation of the Charles Fuller play about internal conflicts among black soliders. in WWII Louisiana.
- ☑☺ **Sounder (1972)**
A family of Black sharecroppers in Louisiana in 1933, face a serious family crisis when the husband and father is convicted of a petty crime and sent to a prison camp.
- ☑ **Spitfire Grill (1972)**
Upon being released from prison, a young woman goes to the small town of Gillead, to find a place where she can start over again.
- ☑ **Stigmata (1999) (R)**
A vatican priest is assigned to investigate a young American who appears to be afflicted with stigmata.
- ☑ **Strawberry Fields (1997)**
A young woman traces her family's history in Japanese internment camps during WWII.
- ☑ **The Straight Story (1993) (G)**
73-year-old man takes a six week trip to mend his relationship with his older brother, who is ill.
- ☑ **Stranger in the Kingdom (1998) (R)**
A Vermont town in the 1950's hires a new minister based on his war record and capable presentation, but then are shocked when he shows up and is a black man.
- ☑☺ **Stuart Little(1999) (PG)**
The adventures of a heroic and debonair stalwart mouse named Stuart Little with human qualities, who faces some comic misadventures while searching for his lost bird friend and living with a human family as their child.
- ☑ **Such a Long Journey (1998) (NR)**
The story revolves around a Parsi family in Bombay around the time of the India-Pakistan war that resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.
- ☑ **Sudie and Simpson (1990) (NR)**
A white girl befriends a reclusive black man in 1940s Georgia.
- ☑ **Tea With Mussolini (1999)**
A story of civilized disobedience; a group of expatriate women in WWII Italy think they are under the protection of Il Duce.
- ☑ **Testament (1983)**
Story of one family's attempt to survive in the aftermath of a nuclear war.

☑ **Twentyfour Seven (1997)**

An idealistic 1980s burnout tries to encourage the aimless, angry young men in his working-class English town by setting up a boxing club.

☑ **Ulee's Gold (1997) (R)**

A reclusive beekeeper slowly pulls his dysfunctional family back together..

☑ **Wag the Dog (1997)**

Before elections, a spin-doctor and a Hollywood producer join efforts to fabricate a war in order to cover-up a presidential sex scandal.

☑☺ **The War (1994) (PG-13)**

A Vietnam veteran in 1970s Mississippi attempts to teach his kids tolerance and peaceful ways when they're being bullied.

☑ **The War at Home (1996) (R)**

TV movie about a middle-class family's helplessness in the wake of a son's agony on his return from Vietnam

☑ **The Whales of August (1987) (NR)**

Two elderly sisters (Bette Davis and Lillian Gish) have to decide whether to give up their family home in Main, their independence and life together.

☑ **What the Deaf Man Heard (1997)**

A traumatized boy refuses to speak and is thought to be deaf until 26 years later he speaks out against embezzlement of church funds.

☑ **White Man's Burden (1995) (R)**

Imagines an America where black people are the ruling class and whites are underprivileged minorities.

☑ **The White Rose (1982)**

Student resistance in Nazi Germany.

☑☺ **Whitewash (1995)**

Animated film explores intolerance.

☑ **The Winslow Boy (1948)**

In pre-WW1 England, a youngster is expelled from a naval academy over a petty theft, but his parents raise a political furor by demanding a trial.

☑ **Wit (2001)**

Eloquent and deeply moving struggle for dignity, meaning, and peace at life's ultimate crossroads. during the painful death of a college English professor.

☑ **Went to Coney Island on a Mission from God .. be Back by Five (1998)**

Two 30-something friends go to Coney Island to look for a childhood buddy who is reported to be mentally ill and living under the boardwalk.

☑ **Winstanley (1974)**

About Gerrard Winstanley and the counter-culture Diggers in the mid 1600s.

☑ **Witness (1985)**

A young Amish boy is sole witness to a murder; policeman goes into hiding in Amish country to protect him until the trial.

☑☺ **The Wizard of Oz (1939)**

Dorothy Gale is swept away to a magical land in a tornado and embarks on a quest to see the Wizard who can help her return home.

☑ **World Apart (1989) (PG)**

This true story reveals the world of apartheid South Africa through the eyes of the daughter of prominent anti-apartheid activists.



Mississippi Burning (1988)

Runtime: 128 minutes

Rating R

The film:

Set in the same year that Martin Luther King received his Nobel Peace Prize, the film is a fictionalized account of a true story, the murder of black activist James Chaney and white colleagues Andrew Goodman and Mickey Schwerner, three young civil rights workers who were part of a voter registration drive in Mississippi.

Historical Background:

Civil Rights workers Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, both white New Yorkers, went to Philadelphia, Mississippi in 1964 as volunteers with CORE, the Congress on Racial Equality, to aid in the registration of African-American voters as part of the Mississippi "Freedom Summer" Project. They and fellow volunteer James Chaney, an African American from Mississippi, disappeared on the evening of June 21. The FBI recovered their bodies, which had been buried in an earthen dam, 44 days later. The case was solved by paying a \$30,000 bribe to a Klan informant. The Neshoba County deputy sheriff and 16 others, all Ku Klux Klan members, were indicted for the crime; seven were convicted. This was a crucial turning point in the civil rights struggle which led up to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

About the rating:

The R rating is for racist and crude language and for violence (shootings, beatings, lynching, burning, torture.)

Why this film was selected:

It is hard for people who did not live through the 1960s to believe that such hatred, violence and racism existed in this country less than 40 years ago. Some critics have complained that the film depicts the action as being led by crusading white law-enforcement personnel on behalf of a herd of meek, passive, helpless blacks, and it has also been criticized for glorifying violent FBI tactics at the expense of the nonviolence advocated by Dr. King. Despite its flaws, *Mississippi Burning* starkly brings home the horror of the South in 1964.

Recommended excerpts for showing:

1. Bombing of black churches.

(minute 35:00 to 44:00 -- 9 minutes)

(Begin with the FBI agents wading across the swamp) After finding the abandoned car of the three missing civil rights workers, the FBI calls in reinforcements to search the swamps for their bodies. In retaliation, the Ku Klux Klan burns several black churches. A young boy speaks at a meeting at a firebombed church and explains that they are crusading for respect and dignity. Several white citizens, including the Sheriff, maintain that it is all a hoax.

2. KKK invades black church, media

interviews. (minute 53:30 to 60:00 - 6.5 minutes)

(Begin with the church service) A black church service is in progress; the KKK interrupts it and beats up several of the worshippers, including a young boy identified as a troublemaker. Followed by interviews with the media where most white citizens express feelings that blacks are subhuman.

3. House burning, trial:

(minute 117:05 to 123:00 - 6 minutes)

(Begin with the boy in the chicken coop) The KKK burns a house and a young boy, tending his chickens, is a witness. A friend convinces him to help the FBI. He identifies the perpetrators, who go to trial and are let off with a suspended sentence by a sympathetic judge.

Suggested discussion questions:

1. Guided by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other practitioners of nonviolence, the African-American people in the South did not meet violence with more violence. What is the difference between being nonviolent and being meek and passive? What do you think might have happened if the black people in Mississippi had started burning down white churches, or lynching white people?
2. People died and suffered countless hardships and indignities to gain African-Americans in the South the right to vote. Yet in the 1998 elections, less than 30% of the eligible voters in Mississippi cast their ballots (compared to just under 40% nationwide and only 27% in Texas.) Was it worth it? Why are civil rights, including voting, important?
3. What things have changed for the better in civil rights since 1964? What things have stayed the same? Have some things become worse?
4. Have you ever spoke out for something you believed in, even when other people got angry with you? What did it feel like? Looking back on your own experience, would you have done anything differently?

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Gandhi (1982)
Runtime: 188 minutes
Rating PG

The film:

Biography of Mohandas Gandhi, who developed and introduced the doctrine of nonviolent resistance to the colonized people of India and who ultimately gained the nation its independence. Directed by Richard Attenborough and starring Ben Kingsley as Gandhi. Eight Oscars.

Historical Background:

True story based on the life of Mohandas Gandhi. The form of nonviolence practiced by Gandhi is called Satyagraha, a combination of satya (truth-love) and agraha (firmness/force). It is the “the vindication of truth not by infliction of suffering on the opponent but on one’s self.” Satyagraha is peaceful. Opponents must be converted by a demonstration of purity, humility, and honesty. They are to be converted — not annihilated. Violence, Gandhi said, creates bitterness in the victim, and brutality in the attacker. Satyagraha assumes there is a constant dialogue between the opponents with a view to ultimate reconciliation. Insults, threats, and propaganda only serve to obstruct the goal.

About the rating:

Although rated PG, some of the episodes where the Indians clash with the British may be disturbing.

Why this film was selected:

Gandhi is a masterpiece, a loving tribute to a saintly man. It has been criticized for this very reason - making a saint of Gandhi. Critics also have complained that it elevates his role in Indian independence at the expense of others, particularly Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan.

Recommended excerpt for showing:

Gandhi is the best movie available to learn and teach nonviolence. Despite its three-hour length, it is well worth trying to show the entire film. If time is short, the following excerpt is recommended:

☞ **Salt March.**

(tape 2, minute 10:30 - 25:20 - 15 minutes)

(Begin with the British uttering the word *Salt*) The British learn that Gandhi plans to march to the sea and make salt, in defiance of British law, which controls and taxes salt production. They decide to ignore him. In talking to a journalist, Gandhi explains that the purpose of civil disobedience is to provoke a reaction and they will provoke until the British react. Hundreds of thousands of Indians begin making and selling their own salt in open defiance. The British arrest thousands of Indians. Gandhi

declares his intention to lead a peaceful takeover of a salt works and is arrested on the eve of the action. The British brutally club the Indians as they nonviolently and relentlessly attempt to enter the salt works. A journalist reports that the naked brutality displayed by the British guaranteed Indian victory.

Discussion Questions

1. Would nonviolence as practiced by Gandhi have any affect upon a dictator like Hitler, Saddam Hussein or Slobadan Milosivic? Why or why not?
2. Satyagraha maintains that opponents must be converted by demonstrations of purity, honesty and humility. Can you think of ways that this could be used in your own life to diffuse potentially violent situations?
3. Gandhi called his autobiography “The Story of My Experiments with Truth.” What do you think he meant by this?
4. What role did the media play in Gandhi’s version of nonviolence? Would his actions had the same effect 50 years before, when there were no newsreels or radio broadcasts?
5. During the salt march the Indians broke the British law against making salt. What is the difference between civil disobedience and ordinary law breaking?
6. Gandhi lived a live of great simplicity, dressing in a loincloth, eating little, living communally and sharing the common chores (such as toilet cleaning.) Why do you think he lived this way? Are nonviolence and simple living in some way linked?

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Cry Freedom (1987)
Runtime: 157 minutes
Rating PG

The film:

A white newspaper editor (Kevin Kline) befriends South African Black political activist Steve Biko (Denzel Washington.) When Biko is beaten to death by the police, the editor writes a book exposing the government and has to escape the country with his family to get it published. Directed by David Attenborough.

Historical Background:

In 1948 the white government of South Africa instituted *Apartheid*, laws to separate the races and maintain white supremacy. Black South Africans lost their citizenship, were assigned to remote "homelands" and had to carry demeaning passes. Steve Bantu Biko (1946-1976) founded the Black Consciousness Movement, based on his philosophy that political freedom could only be achieved if blacks stopped feeling inferior to whites. BCM came into its own in the mid 1970s, when many African National Congress (ANC) leaders, including Nelson Mandela, were in jail or exile. The government "banned" Biko in 1973, restricting his movements and preventing him from being quoted in public. In August, 1977 he was taken into police custody and died several days later. The South African government tried to cover it up. South Africa's first democratic election, held in 1994, resulted in a Government of National Unity (GNU) led by ANC leader Nelson Mandela. The five policemen involved in Biko's death have sought amnesty from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, established to "enable South Africans to come to terms with their past on a morally accepted basis and to advance the cause of reconciliation."

About the rating:

Rated PG, there is some vulgar language. At the end of the film white police brutally fire into a peaceable demonstration of school children.

Why this film was selected:

Cry Freedom has been criticized for telling the story of Black struggle against apartheid through the eyes of a white liberal editor. However, the scenes of life in South Africa under apartheid excellent. Black South Africans also felt slighted that an American actor was chosen to play the role of Biko.

Recommended excerpts for showing:

1. First half of the film.

(minute 00:00 to 1:22:40 -- 1 hour 22 min.)

(End at conclusion of Biko's funeral) Show this much, if there is time; feel free to skip over the second half of the film, of the white editor's escape.

2. Tour of the Black Townships.

(minute 21:50 - 30:15 - 8.5 minutes)

(Begin with Biko getting prepared for the tour) Biko and some friends take the liberal editor on a tour of the Black townships, showing the effects of apartheid and discussing their approach to ending it.

3. Court Scene.

(minute 38:25 - 42:45 - 4.5 minutes)

(Begin with Biko in the dock) While testifying at a trial of a friend, Biko explains his philosophy to the judge and jury.

4. Biko's Funeral.

(minute 1:16:40 - 1:22:40 - 6 minutes)

(Begin with people assembling for funeral)

Suggested discussion questions:

1. During the tour of the townships, Biko and his friends describe the current society as one where they are only "invited to the table" if they learn how to "play by the white master's rules." They envision a society where everyone participates equally in society on their own cultural terms. What would it look like if everyone had their own place at the table in this country, or in your school, workplace or place of worship?
2. Biko has been called "the greatest martyr to apartheid." What is a martyr? What other martyrs have you heard of? What role do they play in peace and justice?
3. The South African government "banned" Steve Biko, and did not let him speak or be quoted in public. In the U.S., where the constitution guarantees free speech, we have generally taken the view that public debate lets the truth emerge in a free interchange of ideas. Do you think people should be permitted to speak out against their government?
4. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in current-day South Africa has identified the policemen who murdered Steve Biko. If you were Mrs. Biko, could you forgive them? What does it mean to forgive and to reconcile yourself to past abuses so that people can live together in harmony?

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Judgment at Nuremberg (1961)

Runtime: 186 minutes

Rating NR

The film:

A panel of American judges conducts a trial of four German judges charged with crimes against humanity during the Nazi regime. All-star cast including Spencer Tracy, Burt Lancaster, Richard Widmark, Maximilian Schell, Marlene Dietrich, Judy Garland and a young William Shatner.

Historical Background:

The Nuremberg Tribunals prosecuted three types of offenses: crimes against peace (waging aggressive war); war crimes (violations of the laws of war) and crimes against humanity (including genocide and operating slave labor camps). The former Nazis claimed that they were acting under orders and, since they had violated no written laws, they could not be punished. The Nuremberg judges rejected this on the basis that the actions of the defendants were so atrocious that it was obvious that they were criminal. Those prosecuted in the Nuremberg trials included doctors who had experimented on inmates and prisoners of war, judges who condemned innocent people to death or imprisonment, industrialists who profited from slave labor, and concentration camp administrators.

About the rating:

Not rated. There is some horrifying historical footage from the concentration camps on the second tape.

Why this film was selected:

Most of this film is talk, rather than action and some may find it boring but it is a brilliant discussion of personal responsibility. Made in 1961 when WWII was still a fresh memory, some of the subtle historical allusions may need explaining to a younger audience.

Recommended excerpts for showing:

1. Concentration Camp footage.

(2nd tape, minute 11:07 to 21:06 -- 10 min.)

(Start with "Your honor, I offer...") Prosecutor Col. Lawson puts the judges' actions into perspective then shows footage of the concentration camps.

2. Herr Janning's defense.

(2nd tape, minute 45:10 - 53:40 - 8.5 min.)

(Begin with "Herr Janning, you may proceed") Herr Janning admits guilt and describes the conditions in Germany that led to Nazism.

3. Rolfe's condemnation of "collaborators".

(2nd tape, minute 54:50 - 58:10 - 3.5 min.)

(Begin with "Your honor, it is my duty to defend..") The

defense attorney maintains that everyone is to blame for the Nazi atrocities.

4. Judge Haywood's summation.

(2nd tape, minute 1:10:25 - 1:19:45 - 8.5 min.)

(Begin with "This tribunal is now in session.")

Suggested discussion questions:

1. Judges who refused to swear a loyalty oath and wear the swastika on their robes lost their jobs. Is it possible to work within an evil or corrupt system? Is there a point where that is no longer the honorable thing to do?
2. The defense attorney ultimately argued that everyone was guilty, from the Germans who voted Hitler into power, to American industrialists who profited from the Third Reich. What purpose was served by bringing to trial a few hundred of the top officials?
3. What kind of responsibility does each of us have for our own actions? Is "following orders" a legitimate excuse to do wrong? How do we decide what is right and wrong?
4. Judge Haywood said, "If these murderers were monsters, this event would have no more moral significance than an earthquake." What did he mean? Do you agree?
5. Herr Janning argued that the crisis in Germany made supposedly temporary measures that subverted justice seem necessary. Do you agree that civil liberties can be suspended for the good of the nation? How does this argument apply to the anticommunist McCarthy hearings in the 1950s?
6. How does this model differ from the "Truth and Reconciliation" model used in South Africa?

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Romero (1989)

Runtime: 105 min.

Rating PG-13

The film:

A biographical account of the last three years of Archbishop Oscar Adolfo Romero of El Salvador's life. Beginning just before his appointment to Archbishop in 1977 and ending just after his death in 1980, the film traces the events that transformed this scholarly moderate, chosen for his ability to compromise, into a nonviolent revolutionary martyr for the human rights of El Salvador's poor and oppressed.

Historical Background:

El Salvador, the smallest but most densely populated country in Central America, was ruled by a cruel military dictators for most of the 20th century. In the 1970s, as the oppression worsened and poverty and human rights abuses increased, many began to raise their voices against the violence and repression. Some of these voices came from the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church. Empowered by Liberation Theology, the belief that God sides with the poor and that Jesus is a prime model of both a spiritual and a political revolutionary, many priests began advocating for social reform and joining forces with poor and/or indigenous revolutionary groups. Bishop Romero was not among those voices until his dear friend, Father Rutilio Grande, was assassinated for his radical views and activities. From that point onward, Romero preached and worked for the rights of the poor and oppressed.

About the rating: PG-13 rating is for violence.

Why this film was selected:

The U.S. has a long relationship with our southern neighbors in the Western Hemisphere, though little media attention is paid to their struggles. Learning about Latin American politics can help us understand the pain of oppression—oppression that U.S. foreign policy has played a part in—and the radical Liberation Theology that many contemporary U.S. theologians have drawn from in dealing with our own problems of poverty and human rights abuses. Primarily, however, it is important to learn about the peaceful, nonviolent movements that many Latin Americans were involved in, since U.S. media attention generally focuses on the violent “guerillas.” This film is a wonderful story of the power of love and nonviolence.

Recommended excerpts for showing:

1. Taking back the church, the power of the church

(minute 56:10-68:47 – 12 min. 47 sec.)

After releasing his friend, Father Osuna, from the prison where he was tortured, Romero goes to visit President-Elect General Carlos Humberto Romero to discuss the repression of the church. The clip proceeds to Aguilares (where Father Rutilio Grande ministered until his assassination) and we witness the occupation of the town and the church and Bishop Romero's courageous act of taking back the sanctuary.

2. Events leading up to Romero's assassination

(minute 89:14-103:00 – 13 min. 46 sec.)

After Father Osuna is killed in prison, Bishop Romero visits Osuna's closest friend, Father Morantes. Morantes is now carrying a gun, and he and Romero discuss the use of violence to affect change. This clip includes a montage of speeches, events and pictures depicting the politics of the rich, Romero's ministry, pictures of the “Disappeared” political prisoners kidnapped and/or killed by the El Salvadoran government, and the plot to assassinate the Archbishop. The film ends shortly after his martyrdom.

Suggested discussion questions:

1. Liberation theology has been accused of being revolutionary and of stirring people to violence. Though many believers in the theology of liberation waged nonviolent conflict, it is true that many guerilla fighters throughout Latin America have used the Hebrew prophets and the radical teachings of Jesus to justify their violence. Can revolutionary violence meant to liberate the oppressed be justified? What nonviolent means can be used to liberate the poor?

2. The U.S. has been criticized for its role in Latin American politics. Bishop Romero wrote to the President to ask him to stop sending arms to the El Salvadoran military, as they were only used to kill the oppressed people of the country. What can and/or should the U.S. military/government/people do to help the oppressed peoples of the world?

3. The church and the Eucharist (communion) are powerful themes and symbols throughout the film. Archbishop Romero and the people of Aguilares showed great courage in taking back their sanctuary at the risk of being fired upon. How powerful/meaningful are communities of faith in the U.S.? What spaces/institutions are meaningful to you? What would be important enough to you and from where would you draw the kind of courage it would take to walk unarmed into a line of armed men?

4. Romero believes—like most liberation theologians—that the church is the people and that its role is to side with the oppressed and to work for liberation. (See *Matt. 5:1-12*, *Luke 1:52-53*, and *Luke 4:16-19*) Do you agree? What do you see as the mission of the church? How can it live out this mission?

Guide prepared by Jay McDivitt, peaceCENTER intern, Luther College

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Erin Brockovich

(2000)

Runtime: 132 min

Rating: R

The film: Based on the true story of Erin Brockovich, a desperate out-of-work mother of three who convinces a lawyer to hire her and then stumbles upon a monumental law case against a huge corporation. Fueled by a desire to provide for her family and an ever-growing compassion for the unsuspecting victims of a grave social injustice, the unlikely Brockovich triumphs over the modern paradigms of social norms, etiquette, and professional qualifications.

Historical Background:

In 1952, Pacific Gas & Electric opened its Hinkley Compressor Station as part of the pipeline system that brings southwest natural gas to PG&E's service area in route from California to Texas. At the same time, they began dumping million of gallons of wastewater from their cooling system into unlined ponds on the facility property. The cooling water contained hexavalent chromium (chromium 6), which subsequently contaminated both the ambient air and the local groundwater supply to a chromium 6 level 400 times the EPA's safety standard. By 1987, the residents of the high desert town of Hinkley, California, who had been breathing, ingesting, and absorbing the toxin for decades, developed a wide range of physical illnesses, including cancer, respiratory problems, and skin diseases. The investigation begun by Erin Brockovich led to the biggest settlement on record for a civil class action lawsuit.

About the rating: R rating is exclusively for language.

Why this film was selected:

This film addresses two issues in American life: Big business and the American Dream. First — Big business, which has enjoyed a long, fruitful, and powerful life in America, often expresses a lack of compassion for both employees and customers. Second — the American dream — to be educated, employed, married with children, and in your own home — is just that, a dream. If all people can really count on is to be deceived by the individuals and companies claiming to help them, what hope is there? This film is a triumph of the human spirit — the story of one woman with no hope and no way who challenges the system. Her courage, determination, and compassion show us what is possible when human beings care for each other.

Recommended excerpts for showing:

1. The job interview

(Opening scene: 3 minutes)

Erin Brockovich, a provocatively dressed, attractive young woman interviews unsuccessfully for a job as a medical assistant.

2. Begging for a job

(Minute 10:00 - 16:00: 6 minutes)

After several failed attempts to find work and several attempts to contact her former lawyer, Ed Masry, Erin takes matters into her own hands. She demands employment and asks for an advance on her salary.

3. PG&E's First Offer

(Minute 50:00-55:00: 5 minutes)

After Masry faxes the first of his claims to the PG&E legal department, PG&E sends a lawyer to make an offer on the Jensen's property near the PG&E plant in Hinkley. The \$28 billion corporation offers the Jensen's \$250,000.

4. PG&E's Second Offer

(Minute 86:00-91:00: 5 minutes. Begin with clip of Jensen throwing rocks toward the PG&E plant.)

The Jensens learn Donna's cancer is malignant. PG&E lawyers offer Hinkley residents \$20 million to settle out of court. Erin is enraged and tells them off.

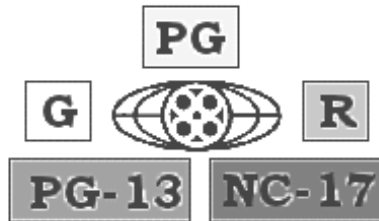
Suggested discussion questions:

1. What effect do dress and demeanor have on a person's ability to perform well on the job? What qualifies someone to do a job? Does society have any particular responsibility to single women raising a family?
2. In the film, PG&E headquarters in San Francisco makes decisions affecting company operations in Hinkley, California, more than 300 miles away. Speculate upon the size and nature of huge companies. How many levels of management do you suppose there are? Who deals with the money? Who deals with the customers? Who deals with local, state, and federal regulations? How might the organization of such a company breed a lack of concern for people — both employees of the company and customers?
3. Notice how preconceived notions based upon appearance and behavior affect the characters' attitudes and actions toward one another. Is this interpretation valid? How have you seen prejudices and preconceived ideas about people influence behavior?

Guide prepared by Laura Holck, peaceCENTER

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Movie Rating System



G-GENERAL:

Appropriate for all ages. This is a film containing nothing which would be offensive to parents. There are no strong words or sex scenes; there is no nudity or drug content and violence is at a minimum.

PG-PARENTAL GUIDANCE:

Parental guidance suggested, contains some material not suitable for children. There may be some profanity and some violence. There is no drug use or explicit sex.

PG-13:

Parents are strongly cautioned that some material is unsuitable for children under 13. Drug use would require this rating, as would the single use of a sexually-derived expletive.

R - RESTRICTED:

Anyone under the age of 17 will require an accompanying adult or adult guardian. May include hard language, drug use, tough violence, nudity within sexual scenes and the use of more than one expletive.

NC-17:

No one 17 and under admitted