

THE MIRACLE MAKER

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR THE MIRACLE MAKER (2)

Cinema-going students and their teachers, from year 3 upwards have found The Miracle Maker a stimulating and moving encounter with the Christian story. Now your school has the opportunity to experience the film time and again through the video release.

Teachers can use the ideas and activities that follow as a starting point, tailoring them to the needs of their students. Ideas are grouped into approximate age groups, but this is for guidance only and most can be adapted to suit other Key Stages.

It is important to prepare students before showing the film. They should feel that it is something that they will enjoy, but also be aware that there is a serious side and that it interprets a story that is sacred to nearly two billion people worldwide.

As well as being suitable for RE teaching, many of these ideas can be adapted for use in English, the Literacy Hour and Media Studies for Key Stages 2 to 5.

ACTION...

Following up the video screening:

1. List three things you liked about the film.
List three things you disliked. (KS 2)
2. Write a review as if you were a film critic. (KS 3,4)
3. Write a review of the film for one of the following – someone of your own age, someone younger or an adult. (KS 2)
4. Design a poster advertising the film. Choose an audience, for example, children under ten, teenagers or adults. Think carefully about the words you use. (KS 2-3)
5. Think of some questions you would like to ask the filmmakers about how they made the film, or about the content. Write these questions in the form of a letter. (KS 2)
6. Try to remember some of the places mentioned in the film. Check the locations in the Gospel of Luke. Look them up in a Bible Atlas or on the Ordnance Survey Bible Lands Wall Map (featured at www.themiraclemaker.com). (KS 2-3)
7. Take a Bible story that is not in the film. Work out how you would dramatise it. Pay attention to the setting, characters and plot. Write a script and give stage directions. (KS 2-3)
8. Think of your favourite section of the film or the section you found most interesting. Look it up in a Bible and read about it. How similar to the text was the film?
9. Who was Jesus? Discuss your thoughts on this. Look at ideas from Christianity, from other world religions and from secular ideologies or culture. How does the film portray Jesus? Is it written from a particular perspective? (KS 4)



THE MIRACLE MAKER

10. Take a section of the Gospel of Luke and identify the character. Which actors would you cast and why? (KS 4)
11. Take a story from one of the gospels and look at it in the Bible. Think about what you would have to do to make it work on screen. Create a "storyboard" dealing with the key points in the story, showing which characters would be involved, what historical and cultural background it would be set in and in what form the text would need to be explained visually. You will need to look carefully at the text to decide which are the key points in the story. (KS 3-4)
12. Think about the title of the film – The Miracle Maker – and discuss the following questions: Is the title appropriate for the film? Why do you think the company chose the title? Who will this title appeal to? Is the title appropriate for the U classification of the film? Think of other titles that could be appropriate for this film. (KS 2,3,4)
13. Design a cover for The Miracle Maker video. Think about who you want the film to appeal to when designing the front cover. When you write the information for the back cover, bear in mind the following points: what the film is about; the time people have to read the information; the style in which the information is usually presented. You may like to look at a number of video covers for other films. (KS 2-3)
14. Choose one major character from the film. Imagine you are a chat show host and that person has been invited on to your show. Think of the questions you would ask her/him. The following headings may help: behaviour and beliefs, character, events. (KS 3-4)

