

Faith Chronicles

Telling the Next Generation About the Lord

Film List

The following films are selected to reinforce particular themes found in the various Bible stories. Many are some of the great classic films of all time and others are just good shows for families to watch together. In some cases the connections between the film and the Bible story are obvious. In other cases the connections are quite a stretch. But hopefully in every case, these films will provide opportunity for good family time and rich discussion..

Included with each film is a brief description of its connection to the Bible story, its rating and length and appropriateness for different ages. Unfortunately, even some of the finest films may contain material that is undesirable. And, what may be objectionable to one may not be to another. So, in addition to the brief reviews provided here, I strongly recommend families take advantage of several web sites which review films and provide more specific information concerning level of violence, profanity and other potentially objectionable features of a film. Each web site has its own perspective and together they will give you a range of viewpoints considering the various films as well as good ideas for discussion with your children.

www.familymoviereviews.com

www.gradingthemovies.com

www.MinistryandMedia.com

www.movieguide.org

www.moviemom.com

www.pluggedinmag.com

www.screenit.com

Animated films of Bible Stories

There are several excellent series of animated films of classic Bible stories available at most Christian bookstores. These videos are generally inexpensive and short enough to be used in a family devotional. If your local Christian bookstores do not have them, two helpful catalogues to have mailed to your home are Gateway Films [Vision Videos, www.visionvideo.com – 1-800-523-0226], and Christian Book Distributors [www.christianbook.com, 1-978-977-5000]. Below are a list of some of the video series available and the specific Faith Chronicles stories they include. For more animated videos of Bible stories, check out www.biblemovies.com.

The Beginners' Bible, Sonywonder/Time-Life Kids

Creation, Noah's Ark, Joseph and his Brothers, David and Goliath, Moses, Daniel in Lion's Den. The Story of the Nativity, Jesus and his Miracles, The Good Samaritan, The Prodigal Son, Easter, *Recommended for ages 3-7.*

The Candy Store, Willie George Ministries

Noah, Abraham, David, Esther, Jesus, Miracles,

Children's Heroes of the Bible, Guiding Light Video

Joseph, Moses, David, Elijah, Jeremiah, Esther, Jesus' Birth and Youth, Jesus Teaches and Calls Disciples, Jesus Heals and Works Miracles, Jesus' Suffering, Death and Resurrection, The Apostles and the Early Church, Paul's Ministry and Trials. *Recommended for ages 3-7*

Greatest Adventure Series, Hanna-Barbera

The Creation, Noah's Ark, Moses, Joseph & His Brothers, Joshua & Battle of Jericho, Samson & Delilah, Queen Esther, David & Goliath, Daniel & the Lion's Den, The Nativity, The Miracles of Jesus, The Easter Story

The Story Keepers, Focus on the Family

Though this series does not have specific Bible stories, it does represent what life was like for early Christians facing persecution. The kids will enjoy the stories and will learn much about first century Christianity. They are especially good as you study the Book of Acts.

Testament: The Bible in Animation, Center for Christian Biblical Education (C.C.B.E.)

Creation and the Flood, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David and Saul, Daniel, Elijah

Recommended for ages 7-13.

Veggie Tales, Big Idea Productions

The Ballad of Little Joe (Joseph), Josh and the Big Wall (Jericho) Dave and the Giant Pickle (David and Goliath), Where's God When I'm Scared (Daniel), Rack, Shack and Benny (Daniel), Esther, the Girl who Became Queen, Are You My Neighbor (Good Samaritan), The Star of Christmas, An Easter Carol.

Film List

The Stories - Part 1

Story #1: The Creation

See list of animated films for children

The Wonder of God's Creation – Moody Science films has produced three videos celebrating the glory of creation, Planet Earth, The Animal Kingdom & Human Life. The photography and music is excellent and the science is first rate. Adults and children alike will enjoy these beautiful videos. [G, 60 minutes]

Genesis [TNT Bible Collection] – Several years ago the media mogul Ted Turner became enthralled with the great biblical stories of the Old Testament. Though a frequent critic of Christianity, Turner has produced several excellent films which provide a presentation of these great stories which is very true to the text and also are very entertaining. The Genesis film starts with creation and continues on through the covenant between God and Noah. [NR, 93 minutes]

Fantasia - This 1940 Disney classic animated film is one of the great examples of the creativity of the human spirit. Can't you just imagine how much fun the animators and other film crew had blending together their artistic talents with the world's greatest classical music? I'm sure God's joy and delight must have been similar as he splashed together on his cosmic canvas his own endless variety of color and species and genus. The new 2000 version is fine, but I am still biased to the original. [G, 120 minutes, 1940]

Story #2: Adam and Eve

Bedtime for Bonzo – Of course not everyone believes the biblical account of our creation and ancestry in Adam and Eve. Some think our family tree was filled with monkeys. So, if we humans came from monkeys, why not raise a monkey as a human. So goes the premise of this classic farce starring none other than our former president, Ronald Reagan. Everyone really ought to see this silly film at least once. [NR, 83 minutes, 1951]

Eight Men Out – The story of Adam and Eve is a story of how our sin spoiled paradise and robbed us of the pleasures God fully intended for us to enjoy. “Eight Men Out” tells a similar story as the greed and selfishness of so many ruined what was at that time considered the most innocent of all sports, baseball. This is the tragic story of the 1919 Chicago White Sox who bore the retribution of a whole country for intentionally throwing the World Series and thus robbing baseball forever of its innocence. The classic line in the film, “Say it isn’t so, Joe.” is an eloquent lament not only for the sins of this baseball team, but for all of us. Be aware of some profanity. [PG, 120 minutes. 1993]

Father Goose – Okay, this is quite a stretch, but it’s a great family film. Cary Grant plays an old grizzly sailor who lives by himself in his own little paradise spotting enemy planes for the army during WWII. Life is simple and uncomplicated until a very proper and scrupulous teacher [Leslie Caron] and her band of adolescent girls arrive and change everything including several attempts to reform Grant’s many bad habits. Grant and Caron give two very different ideas of the “good life” neither of which is as fulfilling as the love that finally blossoms between them. [NR, 115 minutes, 1964].