

# MEETING JESUS AT THE MOVIES: THE BOOK & FILM

## A Wrinkle in Time



2018, 109 min. Directed by Ava DuVernay. Based on novel by Madeleine L'Engle  
Storm Reid, Reese Witherspoon, Oprah Winfrey

**Themes:** Identity and Self-esteem, Struggle between Good and Evil, Conformity vs. Individuality, the Power of Love, the Paradox of the Cross

**Focus:** Jesus' teaching (e.g. the Beatitudes) and his death on the Cross are according to divine, not human, wisdom. Meg struggles to accept and believe in herself, yet she is only one who can carry out this mission to the end. How does this story reflect divine wisdom and the Biblical perspective?

**Scripture:** 1 Cor. 1:18, 22-30 *Christ the Power and Wisdom of God*

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are on their way to destruction, but for those who are being saved—for us—it's the power of God.... Jews ask for signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified—a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Greeks, but for those who have been chosen, both Jew and Greek alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God, for God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

For consider the fact that *you* were called. Not many of you were wise according to the flesh, nor powerful, or well-born, but God chose the foolish things of the world to shame those who are wise; the weak of the world to shame the strong; God chose the base-born and contemptible of the world, things that are nothing, to shame what *is*, so that the flesh would have nothing to boast of before God. Through God you are in Christ Jesus, and through God Christ became our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

(Alternative Scripture: 2 Timothy 1: 3-9)

### For Reflection & Conversation

1. Movies and books have different strengths. How do the book and film compare? Which do you like better? Why?
2. Author Madeleine L'Engle wrote that *A Wrinkle in Time* was her "hymn of praise to God," and the novel is full of the characters enjoying the discoveries of God's marvelous creation. Was the universe itself a character in the book or in the film? Why or why not? What is your favorite way of praising God through creation?
3. In the novel, various characters quote the Bible (KJV) directly. Which Bible quotations did you notice? (Chapter 4: Isaiah 42:10-12 *Sing unto the Lord a new song*; Ch. 5: John 1:5 *And the light shineth in darkness*; Ch. 10: Rom. 8:28 *All things work together for good to them that love God*; Chapter 12 (named for its quotation): 1 Cor. 1:25-28 *The foolishness of God is wiser than men*. In addition, in chapter 11, Charles Wallace calls the Mrs. Ws "angels" and "Messengers of God."

Which biblical theme resonates most with you? How did you find that biblical theme expressed in the film?

4. The film's tagline is "Be a warrior." Did you find that fit the overall theme of the story in the movie? In the book? If you were to give the book a tagline, what would it be?
5. What important element from the novel (theme, character, event, lines) were missing or different in the film? How does that change the meaning of the story for you?

**Closing Prayer:** A Hymn of Praise for Creation

O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.... Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King. Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Psalm 98, KJV