

CINEMA DIVINA GUIDE

A Wrinkle in Time



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

Major Themes: Identity and Self-esteem, Good and Evil, Conformity vs. individuality, Love, 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 the only one who can carry out their mission to the end. How does this story reflect divine wisdom and the coming of the Kingdom of God here on earth?

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)

Lectio: This film touches on so many themes: identity and self-confidence, trust, conformity and “fitting in” versus individuality, the struggle between good and evil, forgiveness, family, the wonder of creation. What theme resonated with me—what is the story really about for me? What do the words and images, characters, form, and genre say to me?

One theme that underlies much of the story is how claiming our identity empowers us to be our best selves and put our gifts to work in the world. How does claiming our identity in Christ empower us to do God's work of love in the world? How have I experienced God at work in my weakness?

Meditatio: What part of today's Scripture reading and which part of the movie “chose” me?

Oratio: In the scene where Meg is really listening, she “hears” the brokenness of others, how evil has touched their lives—of her friend Calvin, of her classmate who tormented her, of her teacher who was so cruel to her, and of her own grief and sense of abandonment. For a few moments, I will “listen” to the cries of my heart, my loved ones and the world; then in prayer, I bring my own brokenness and the brokenness of others to the healing power of God's love.

Contemplatio: I take some time to relish how the film speaks to my spiritual experience

Actio: As a result of viewing this film and praying with it, what concrete action is the Holy Spirit calling me to take beyond the film into my everyday life and the world?

Closing Prayer: Our Father...

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