

SELMA

Suggested Discussion questions for movie SELMA

Description : This movie is a description of the Selma voting rights protest, the march from Selma to Montgomery, the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. March 7th marks the anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma. This was one critical moment in the long struggle for civil rights. Why was this so important to people to go so far as to risk their life? (possible answers: people wanted to be free, voting is a basic right , they wanted to have a voice and be treated like everybody else, we are all created equal...)
2. Perseverance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the people of Selma led to a statement made by President Johnson of his belief in civil rights for African Americans which came in his address to Congress on March 15, 1965, eight days after Selma's Bloody Sunday (The peaceful protest changed his heart and vision on the issue). What are you so passionate about that you would be willing to fight for?
3. Share the time you stood up for something you believed in. Was it difficult? What were the risks?
4. Throughout the Civil Rights Movement people gave their lives so everyone could have the right to vote. Why is it important to protect this right?
5. How we treat people matters. How we talk matters. What we say online matters. What can we do better to humanize each other and to champion equality and respect for every person?

For with a country as with a person, "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" . . .

This was the first nation in the history of the world to be founded with a purpose. The great phrases of that purpose still sound in every American heart, North and South: "All men are created equal." "Government by consent of the governed." "Give me liberty or give me death." And those are not just clever words, and those are not just empty theories. In their name Americans have fought and died . . . Those words are promises to every citizen that he shall share in the dignity of man. This dignity cannot be found in a man's possessions. It cannot be found in his power or in his position. It really rests on his right to be treated as a man, equal in opportunity to all others.

From: President Johnson's address to Congress on March 15,1965

Faith connection:

1. Discuss how this true story and the faith and perseverance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior and the people of Selma show the application of Catholic Social Teaching in regard to the Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Rights and Responsibilities; Solidarity; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable (you will find more details on Catholic Social Teaching in the red Student Handbook pages 5,6)
2. Which Commandments come into play in the movie (5, 7- You Cat 426-448, 8 - You Cat 455)
3. The Bible makes a point to address racial issues as well. Choose one or two verses to see what Scripture teaches:
 - Luke 10:25-37,
 - Numbers 15:15-16,
 - Revelation 7:9-10,
 - Galatians 3:23-29 – read Catholic Connection p.1560 in your student Catholic Youth Bible” Respect Radical Equality”.

