

take you on this same journey to discover your own unique mission in the kingdom of God! He said to Peter: “Do not be afraid.” What might the Lord be saying in your heart as you seek to follow him more closely?

Prayerful Follow-up

* Pray with one of the Church’s traditional, eloquent hymns to the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promised would be with us and guide us:

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come
from thy bright heav'nly throne;
come, take possession of our souls,
and make them all thine own...

Conclude with this traditional prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts
of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly
wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DISCERNMENT AT THE MOVIES

*Moana*¹



Set in ancient Polynesian islands and mythology, *Moana* is the story of the teenaged daughter of a chieftain who has forbidden his people to sail beyond the reef into the wide ocean. Yet from her childhood, Moana feels a deep connection to the ocean, encouraged by her grandmother’s stories.

Moana struggles between the demands of her parents and her own inner longings. When she discovers that the islands are dying, she believes that the cause is found in her grandmother’s stories: the demigod Maui stole and then lost the heart of the goddess Te Fiti, who created the islands. To

save her people and her world, Moana “goes out into the deep” to find Maui and convince him to return Te Fiti’s heart.

Before you watch the film, read the following Scripture passage.

¹ *Moana* (2016), directed by Ron Clements, John Musker, with co-directors Don Hall and Chris Williams.

Luke 5: 2-11

[Jesus] saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.” When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.²

Discernment Key to Watching the Film

As you watch the film, pay attention to: the themes of identity and listening, and how they shape Moana’s understanding of her call.

After Watching the Film

You may wish to bring the following questions to prayer, reflection, or discussion in a group:

1. What is your favorite moment of the film? How did it touch you and why?
2. In discerning how she was called to lead her people, Moana listened to many voices: those of her parents, her grandmother as a wise spiritual elder, the community, and the ocean. Late in the film, she discovers that one of the most important voices to listen to is “the voice inside.”

How does God speak to you? How can you nurture a deeper listening to more easily hear God in your life?
3. In stepping out in faith to follow their calls, both Moana and Saint Peter wrestle with doubts. What doubts do you wrestle with in seeking to follow God’s call for you? How does Jesus’ call to “put out into the deep” resonate in your heart?
4. The film is filled with beautiful imagery of creation, and the ocean is an important character. In the Bible, the image of water can represent the life of God in us—the Holy Spirit at work in us. What does the film’s imagery of the ocean evoke for you?
5. Stepping out in faith caused both Moana and Saint Peter to come to more truly “know who they are.” Do you see ways the Lord has helped you grow in self-knowledge through moments of acting with faith in him?
6. Once they took a leap of faith and grew in self-knowledge, both Moana and Peter discover their mission. Jesus wants to

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