

Some thoughts on watching films

Stories are the stuff of life. They allow us to reflect on all sorts of issues at a safe distance as we engage with the characters, cry with them, laugh with them, get cross with them and generally share their experience. How they deal with the issues they come across may frustrate us, or give us new insights; cause us to laugh or cry; result in us hurling abuse at the screen or willing there to be a happy ending. And through it all we can encounter God in all sorts of unexpected places if we only take time to look.

Questions to ask yourself

What did you think of the film? What do you like most? Least?

Which incidents made you *think* or *feel* most strongly? How well did you think the film treated those incidents?

What issues did the film raise for you?

What character(s) do you most identify with and why?

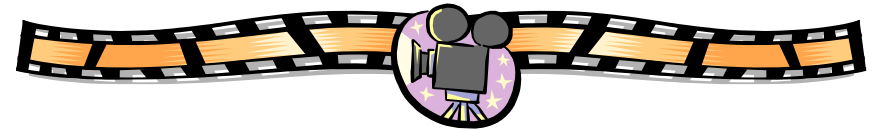
Does the film have any echoes of Christian beliefs or stories from the Bible? Does it support or challenge Christian values?

Some facts about the film

- Due to Afghan mores concerning male rape, Paramount Vantage agreed to relocate the young actors out of the country to the United Arab Emirates and arrange visas, housing and schooling for the young actors and jobs for their guardians. Paramount Vantage accepts responsibility for the living expenses of all four young actors until they reach adulthood, a cost some estimated at up to \$500,000.
- The name on the door, "Dr Amani", is the author's homage to his medical school roommate. Khaled Hosseini was a practicing physician for eight and a half years before choosing to concentrate on writing after "The Kite Runner" book became successful.
- The scenes ostensibly taking place in Afghanistan were mainly shot in the cities of Kashgar and Tashkurgan in the Xinjiang region of China.
- When Amir receives his degree from community college, the names of the graduates are names of crew members from San Francisco.
- The author of the book, Khalid Hosseini, can be seen in a cameo appearance as the person the couple are talking to while in the park in the last scene before Amir goes to buy a kite.
- The Afghan government has banned the film because of the rape scene and the ethnic tensions and class struggles that the film highlights.

Relating it to the Bible

The book of Ruth—a story of friendship and loyalty
Genesis 21: 1 - 21—a story of a patriarch with two sons by different mothers
John 15: 11 - 17—Jesus includes in his farewell discourse a definition of friendship.



**A chance to watch films together.
An opportunity to discuss the issues raised.
A time of friendship, food and fun.**

4th Jan Juno
1st Feb The Kite Runner
1st Mar Son of Rambow
5th Apr Son of Man
3rd May WALL-E
***14th Jun Into the Wild**

**Films start at 5:30pm
Followed by food, coffee and conversation**

**10 Bletchingdon Road
Islip**

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The Kite Runner

The Kite Runner is a moving story about honour, loyalty, courage, guilt, betrayal and the need for forgiveness. Set mainly in Afghanistan, it tells the story of Amir and his friendship with Hassan, the family's servant son, who is a member of the downtrodden Hazara people. The boys are inseparable, but an incident happens which fundamentally alters that relationship, leading to Amir manipulating his father into sending Hassan away. Many years later, now living in San Francisco, Amir is finally given the chance to make amends for what happened and finally finds atonement.

Loyalty

Hassan is the ultimate loyal friend. Hassan willingly pays the price for Amir's deception. Why do you think he does this? Do you have friends who would stick by you no matter what? If so, thank God for them. How good a friend are you in return? Would you, too, stand by someone even if they had betrayed you? And, if the answer is yes, are you sure? Or is it just wishful thinking?

Letting go

Baba is deeply committed to Hassan for reasons that later become apparent. Yet he lets him go. What else might he have done? Why do you think he doesn't? Why does he, throughout his life, remain economical with the truth?

Putting things right

Sometimes things happen in life which need to be put right—things said, things not said, things done, things not done. Ignoring them can only make them worse. Amir is so ashamed of what he has failed to do that he does something even worse. In so doing he hopes he can remove the problem and thus forget all about it but the incident continues to haunt him. Are there things niggling away in your life that need dealing with? And do you have the courage to tackle them? How can things be put right? And what happens if it is too late; if the person involved is already dead? And where might God be in all this?

Tradition

On falling in love in San Francisco, Amir comes up against the traditional way of doing things. General Taheri is a gentleman who believes in doing things properly and in the value of tradition. On one level, "the proper way of doing things" can be all very well and good. However, traditions can also mask institutionalised discrimination within a society. Afghan society is dominated by Pashtuns at the expense of others (eg. the Hazaras). When should traditions within society be cherished? And when should they be challenged? How do we go about it? And what about when the society in question is that of the church and its traditions?

Kites

What do you make of the film's title? Is there something about kites—and those who run with them—which acts as a symbol of what human beings are meant to be? A kite may fly freely in the air but there are strings attached. Is there something about personal freedom also involving limits? And if so, who decides where those limits should lie: in Taliban-type absolutism; anything goes liberalism; or something else?

Memorable Quotes

Hassan For you, a thousand times over .

Rahim There is a way to be good again, Amir.

Hassan Have I ever lied to you?

Amir How should I know?

Hassan I'd rather eat dirt.

Amir Would you really do that?

Hassan If you asked, I would. But would you really ask me to do such a thing?

Amir Are you crazy? You know I wouldn't.

Baba There is only one sin, only one. And that is theft. Every other sin is a variation of theft... When you kill a man, you steal a life. You steal his wife's right to a husband, rob his children of a father. When you tell a lie, you steal someone's right to the truth. When you cheat, you steal the right to fairness.

Amir (to Hassan) Do you have to be so holy all the time?

Hassan Please leave us alone, Agha.

Assef Put it down, you motherless Hazara.

Hassan Leave us in peace.

Assef Maybe you didn't notice, but there are three of us and two of you.

Hassan And maybe you didn't notice that I'm the one holding the sling shot.

Rahim Children aren't colouring books. You don't get to fill them with your favourite colours. He's not like you. He'll never be like you. But watch. He'll turn out well.

Baba A boy who won't stand up for himself becomes a man who won't stand up for anything.

Baba (to Amir) You bring me shame.

Assef Before you sacrifice yourself for him, think about this, Hazara: would he do the same for you?

Baba Whatever's going on, you should deal with it before too long. Take care not to let these things fester. Time will only make it worse.

Rahim There is such a thing as God's will.

Amir Are the Taliban as bad as they say?

Rahim Worse. Much worse. They don't let you be human.

Driver Nothing that you remember has survived. Better to forget.

Amir I don't want to forget anymore.

Amir For you, a thousand times over .