

# The Lord of the Rings

## Part One: *The Fellowship of the Ring*

### Lesson Two : The Mission

*The Lord of the Rings* is a classic quest story in which a particular mission is the central plot. Often it is an unusual group, with a charismatic leader, united by a common goal that is pursuing the quest. The first film of the Ring trilogy defines the mission and lets us get to know the members of the group. In this case, that group is the Fellowship of the Ring.

#### **Watch scene 20:** ("The Fate of the Ring," 20-1:20:35 – 20-1:21:35)

The wise king of the Elves, Elrond, tells Gandalf, "The peril belongs to all."

1. Who does "all" include?
2. Elrond feels opposition to Sauron's power is useless: What is Gandalf's response?
3. Do you believe hope still lies in people in today's world?

#### **Watch scene 22:** ("The Evenstar," 22:12:58 – 23:26:18)

Arwen gives Aragorn the Evenstar and tells him, "I choose mortal life."

1. What can we learn about true, selfless love in this scene?
2. When Arwen pledges herself to Aragorn, what priceless thing does she give up and why?

#### **Watch scene 23:** ("Council of Elrond," 23-1:31:46 – 23-1:33:25)

During the council meeting at Rivendell, Frodo accepts the responsibility of the Ring, and the Fellowship is officially formed.

1. Why do you think each member of the Fellowship pledges support for Frodo in this dangerous quest?
2. What role does each of the seven fulfill in the quest?

**Watch scene 24:** ("Bilbo's gifts," 24-1:33:34 – 24-1:35:20)

Bilbo gives Frodo two beautiful, Elven-made gifts of special importance: the sword, "Sting;" and the shirt of impenetrable chain, "Mithrail."

1. The sword glows blue when Orcs are near. Can you describe something comparable that you carry with you that warns you of danger?
2. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:11), he talks of putting on the "whole armor of God." What parallels can you see with Mithrail?
3. Talk about how the power of the Ring continues to affect Bilbo.

**Watch scene 32:** ("The mirror of Galadriel, 32-2:17:45 – 32-2:23:10)

In Lochlorien Woods, the Elf-witch, Galadriel, shows Frodo the future and reveals her own struggle with a deep desire for power. She also gives him a vial of the light of Eärendil, "a light for you in dark places when all other lights go out."

1. Galadriel says, "To be a bearer of the Ring of Power is to be alone." Why do you think this is true?
2. Why did she tell Frodo, "If you don't find the way, no one will"?

**Discussion of scene 32:** Galadriel says, "Hope remains while company is true." What does this mean to you? Galadriel also tells Frodo, "Even the smallest person can change the course of history." People small in stature and small in power have changed the world in many ways throughout history. What names come to mind?

**Activity B:** Find or create your own Evenstar or talisman -- your own "light in dark places." It could be in the form of a symbol that is particularly meaningful for you.

**Watch scene 36:** ("Parth Galen," 36-2:30:01 – 37-2:35:00)

Frodo ponders his mission and doubts his companions.

1. Why do you think Frodo went alone seeking solitude?
2. What did he mean when he told Boromir, "There is no other way"?

**Discussion of scene 36:** Does this scene remind you of a scene in the Gospels? Why?

**Watch scene 39:** ("The road goes ever on," 39-2:44:20 – 39-2:47:46)

Frodo decides he must go on alone, but...

1. Why do you think Sam is the only member of the Fellowship who refuses to let Frodo actually go on alone?