THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS

Lesson One

At the end of the first film of the trilogy, THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING, the fellowship has broken apart. Gandalf died fighting the Balrog; Prince Boromir was killed the Uruk-Hai; Fordo and Sam are traveling toward the terrifying land of Mordor in order to try to destroy the Ring; Merry and Pippin have become prisoners of the Uruk-Hai; Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli are following ehind them as they all enter the land of Rohan of the Race of Men.

**Activity A**: Tolkien’s mythology is so complex you can easily become lost in it. Let’s review some key names and places. **Match** the following descriptions with the correct characters.

1. Bearer of the One Ring \_\_\_\_Gollum
2. Wizard ally of Sauron \_\_\_\_Frodo the Hobbit
3. The Grey Wanderer, Mithrandir \_\_\_\_Arwen
4. Heir of Isildur, raised by Elrond \_\_\_\_Saruman
5. Elrond’s daughter/Light of the Elves \_\_\_\_Aragorn
6. Lord of Rivendell \_\_\_\_Eomer
7. Warrior leader of the Elves of Elda \_\_\_\_Haldir
8. Smeagol of the River Folk \_\_\_\_Gandalf
9. Peregrine Took \_\_\_\_Elrond
10. Meriadoc Brandybuck \_\_\_\_Pippin
11. Fangorn, leader of the Ents \_\_\_\_Treebeard
12. King of Rohan \_\_\_\_Merry
13. Theoden’s niece, warrior maid \_\_\_\_King Theoden
14. The Steward of Gondor \_\_\_\_Rohan(part of
15. Saruman’s spy in Theoden’s court Gondor)
16. Kingdom of the Elves \_\_\_\_Lady Eowen
17. Principal city of Gondor (location of the \_\_\_\_Isengard

White tower of Ecthelion) \_\_\_\_Rivendell

1. Dweliling place of the Ents \_\_\_\_Grima
2. Realm of the Horse Lords (Men) Wormtongue
3. Saruman’s fortress (the Black Tower) \_\_\_\_Denethor
4. Nephew of Theoden, banished by Grima \_\_\_\_Minas Tirith

Wormtongue \_\_\_\_Fangorn Forest

**Watch scene 12:** Frodo and Sam are following Gollum, who’s leading them to Mordor. After Gollum pulls Frodo out of the marsh water, grateful Frodo calls him by his original name, Smeagol.

1. Why did Frodo use the name Smeagol for the first time at this point?
2. Gollum reacts in an uncharacteristic way. Why?

**Watch scene 13**: Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli encounter a brilliant shining presence in the forest.

1, The first reaction of the three companions is alarm and perhaps fear which quicly turns to shock. Why?

1. What scene or scenes in the Gospel does this remind you of?

**Watch scene 22:** In the scene preceding this one, Frodo had told Sam, “I have to believe he (Gollum) can come back,” demonstrating this faith in the possibility of the creature’s redemption. In this scene, we see a split personality: Gollum arguing with his other self, Smeagol.

1. At the most intense part of the argument, Smeagol tells Gollum to “Leave now and never come back!!” After this Smeagol is triumphant saying, “Smeagol is free!” How does him manner change after this?
2. Why doesn’t Sam trust this transformation?

**Discussion:** Each of us is a complex combination of potentials for both good and bad. Can you see both your Gollum side and your Smeagol side? Think about those times when your Gollum side has taken over. Share.

**Watch scene 29:** The Valar is the creator of the Elves and all Middle Earth, an invocation of a kind of god or all-powerful, ever-present benevolent force.

**Discussion:** What does this scene mean? Try to recall moments in your life when you were ready to give up, but something happened or someone appeared on the scene to give you hope.

**Activity B**: Reflect on your personal stories of hope.