**THE TWO TOWERS**

**Lesson Two**

**Watch scene 30**: Elrond challenges his daughter’s decision to wait for Aragorn.

1. Knowing that she loves Aragorn, why does Elrond try to convince her to leave?
2. What would the consequences be for Arwen in linking her fate to that of a mortal?
3. Why does Arwen change her mind?

**Discussion:** Often one of the greatest kinds of emotional pain one can endure in the course of life comes form a conflict of loves—when one must choose. Can you cite any other instances in literature when a conflict of loves has made a decision nearly impossible?

**Watch scene 38**: Battle lines have been drawn. The Men of Rohan are outnumbered 300 to 10, 000 and those left ot fight are mainly boys and old men. Aragorn knows it is hopeless, yet he has rallied the men to fight to the death.

1. As Aragorn struggles with despair while people rush around him, what or who catches his eye and why?
2. Why does Aragorn’s attitude seen to change?

**Discussion**: Is it truly “wrong to despair”? Look back to a time when you have despaired and talk about why it was, or was not, wrong. Is this a place where wisdom is born?

**Watch scene 47**: Faramir takes Frodo and Sam into custody and decides to send them to his father, Denethor (Steward of Gondor) as a “mighty gift”.

1. What is the “mighty gift,” and why does Faramir send it?
2. Is it a good gift?
3. Why does Sam step in to tell him why his brother Boromir died?

**Watch scene 50**: This is one of the most important scenes in the Trilogy of the Rings and worth an in-depth study. The Battle of Helms Deep has reached its terrifying apex, and Frodo tries to use the Ring as protection. But Sam stops him. When he recovers his senses, Frodo says, “I can’t do this, Sam,” revealing the depth of his exhaustion and despair.

1. Why is his resolve weakening at this point?
2. Why doesn’t Sam feel the same?
3. What makes Sam absolutely undaunted through all the setbacks and trouble they’ve experienced?