

Reflecting through the Movies

Movies are one popular form of media. They tell a story. They take us away. They make us laugh, smile, jump, cry, and feel. With all the incredible emotions we can feel through film, one can easily use them as a form of reflection, especially when it comes to calling and vocation. A majority of films tend to have little fragments of vocation spread throughout. The main character(s) are usually on a journey of meaning, purpose, and discovery.

Below are a list of films and links to moments within them that touch on questions or thoughts on calling. You'll also find a question or two beneath the link and description that can help you reflect a little deeper. These clips may or may not resonate to you, but the concepts within are definitely vocational in nature and worth considering. Remember, these are just a few clips we have found. We encourage you to look at other films, particularly ones that you enjoy and reflect on the vocational elements within them. Here's a couple questions you might consider as you view other films:

1. What is the main character's call?
2. How does he/she respond to the call?
3. What steps were necessary for the character to reach his or her call?

Dead Poet's Society

Description: Painfully shy Todd Anderson has been sent to the school where his popular older brother was valedictorian. His roommate, Neil, although exceedingly bright and popular, is very much under the thumb of his overbearing father. The two, along with their other friends, meet Professor Keating, a new English teacher who encourages them to go against the status quo. Each does this in their own way and is changed for the better.

Clip Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYOnl079qe0>

Questions:

1. What will your verse be?

Field of Dreams

Description: Iowa farmer, Ray Kinsella, hears a voice in his corn field tell him, "If you build it, he will come." Ray interprets this message as an instruction to build a baseball field on his farm, upon which appear the ghosts of Shoeless Joe Jackson and the other seven Chicago White Sox players banned from the game for throwing the 1919 World Series. When the voices continue, Ray seeks out a reclusive author to help him understand the meaning of the messages and the purpose for his field.

Clip Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9yrupye7B0>

Questions:

1. What's a moment in your life that you may not have seen as significant at the time, but today it's highly significant? How as that moment changed you and does it speak to your future?
2. If you could do anything you wanted or have a wish granted, what would it be? How might you get there?

Good Will Hunting

Description: A touching tale about a janitor at MIT has a gift for math and chemistry. This gift can take him light-years beyond his blue-collar roots, but he doesn't realize his full potential. Then several strangers enter the equation: a brilliant math professor who discovers—even envies—Will's gifts, an empathetic shrink who identifies with Will's blue-collar roots, and a beautiful, gifted pre-med student. These three help him discover that which lies within him.

Clip Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKQBhkzOYvw> (**NOTE: Explicit language in this clip**)

Questions:

1. Do you have a soulmate? Someone who challenges you?
2. If you could do anything you want and not bound by anything, what would you do? What do you really want to do?
3. What are you passionate about?

Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring

Description: An ancient Ring thought lost for centuries has been found, and through a strange twist in fate has been given to a small Hobbit named Frodo. When Gandalf discovers the Ring is in fact the One Ring of the Dark Lord Sauron, Frodo must make an epic quest to return the Ring to the fires of Mount Doom in order to destroy it. However, he does not go alone. He is joined by several others as they trudge through mountains, snow, darkness, forests, rivers and plains, facing evil and danger at every corner.

Clip Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOe_utzrsRU

Questions:

1. What cause would you donate your time and energy to in an effort to help hundreds or even thousands of people? What cause would you die for?
2. Who could you ask to support you in this endeavor? Who might you ask to help challenge and support you to carry out your calling?

Mr. Holland's Opus

Description: Glenn Holland is a musician and composer who takes a teaching job to pay the rent while in his 'spare time' he can strive to achieve his true goal—compose one memorable piece of music to leave his mark on the world. As Holland discovers 'Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans', and as the years unfold, the joy of sharing his contagious passion for music with his students becomes his new definition of success.

Clip Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ad5pKiflwew>

Questions:

1. Who's believed in you and give you a chance in the past?
2. What aspect in your life do you want to find the beat?

Patch Adams

Description: Robin Williams stars as Hunter Adams, a troubled young man who commits himself to a mental institution in the late 1960s. Adams' experiences at the institution encourage him to become a doctor. Patch enrolls in medical school, where he finds cold, clinical professionalism that alienates patients from their caregivers. Determined to make a change, Adams clowns around for his patients, getting to know them personally in an effort to make them feel better physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.

Clip Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKLQBuSPVwQ>

Questions:

1. Name a problem in your life. Do you want it resolved? What's the solution to get you there? What steps do you need to take?
2. What is something you see that everyone else chooses not to see?

Phenomenon

Description: Small-town auto mechanic George Malley is a well-liked, but simple man. His life is forever altered when late one night he steps outside to make a toast to the sky. A brilliant flash of light endows him with exceptional brain power, increasing his capacity for and retention of knowledge, as well as gifting him with psychokinetic abilities.

Clip Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_15FKH1Bqo

Questions:

1. If you had just a few hours left, what would you say?
2. What's your possibility?

Rocky Balboa

Description: When he loses a highly publicized virtual boxing match to ex-champ Rocky Balboa, reigning heavyweight titleholder Mason Dixon retaliates by challenging the “Italian Stallion” to a nationally televised, 10-round exhibition bout. To the surprise of his son and friends, Rocky agrees to come out of retirement and face an opponent who's faster, stronger and thirty years his junior. With the odds stacked firmly against him, Rocky takes on Dixon in what will become one of the greatest fights in boxing history.

Clip Link 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfbCiNMY1Ak>

Clip Link 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_Vg4uyYwEk

Questions:

1. Is there something you've never finished, something you really wanted to do, or something you've never said to somebody? What might that be and how might you carry it through?
2. How is life hitting you? How are you responding to the hits? How can you take the hits and put them towards your future?

Say Anything

Description: High school senior Lloyd Dobler wants nothing more than to go out with beautiful and intelligent Diane Court. Lloyd attempts to win her heart over the objections of her over-protective father before Diane leaves on scholarship to study abroad in England.

Clip Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEgu7jdc_fs&feature=youtu.be

Questions:

1. When people ask you what your plans are for the future, what's your response? Are you happy with that response? Why or why not? If not, what response do you want to share?

Wartburg College

The Legend of Bagger Vance

Description: Promising golfer Rannulph Junuh (Matt Damon) is Savannah, Georgia's favorite son. Adele Invergordon (Charlize Theron) is his beautiful girlfriend from a rich family. While serving as a captain in the US Army during World War I, Junuh is traumatized when his entire company is wiped out in battle. Though he earns the Medal of Honor, he returns to Georgia and lives a shadowy life as a drunk and golf being just a distant memory.

Clip Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=git61nSYK8>

Questions:

1. What is your authentic swing?
2. Has your authentic swing become buried? Why or why not?