

Worship Brainstorming Summary **“Faith in Film 2023”**

An Epiphany series that explores spiritual themes in recent films
January 8-29, 2023 (4 Sundays)

Members present: Diane Thompson, Pastor Mary Ivanov, Betty Kinney, Jean Kelly, Rose Emmons, Ed Baranowski, Sue Baranowski, Karen Post, Jim Post, Karen Booth

2023 theme connection: Faith and pop culture already coexist in the lives of many Christians. We recognize that we sometimes see glimpses of God’s truth in unlikely places, even characters from four different films who are searching for hope and meaning in their perfectly messy lives.

2023 Theme: Jesus is Our Past, Present, and Future Hope

2023 key Scripture verses: ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8: 38-39 (NIV)*

Major spoken/unspoken needs:

- It is so easy to not attend church when I can watch it online. Worship is for God, not us. Convenience vs. sacrifice. Logistics vs. routine.
- Pastoral care, especially around losses: Grief. Family. Division. Addiction. Unrealized dreams. Financial woes. Abortion. Marriage and divorce.
- Relationships. Reconciliation.
- Fear and regret

Notes on Epiphany:

Epiphany is a word derived from the Greek for “manifestation” and is usually used as a reminder that Jesus is God’s revelation for the whole world. But we also use “epiphany” to describe those moments of deeper understanding and insight – like an “a-ha!” moment. Though our faith in Jesus Christ is grounded in Scripture, the arts, including literature and films, profoundly influence how we think about and understand God.

When characters long for something or yearn for something, when they celebrate, all of these moments can be viewed through a lens of prayer even though the character may not address God directly. (Larsen) Stories connect to the human experience and help us to grow in our faith. We’ll look at four films with the **overall themes of building relationships, community, and leadership.**

Resource: Movies Are Prayer: How Films Voice Our Deepest Longings by Josh Larsen.

"Movies are our way of telling God what we think about this world and our place in it. . . Movies can be many things: escapist experiences, historical artifacts, business ventures, and artistic expressions, to name a few. I'd like to suggest that they can also be prayers." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78Vq6aZeWrM> (A good series intro). **Comments:** Pastor Mary will contact Josh Larsen to see if we can livestream this video. We have used it many times before, but it is the best resource we have seen for connecting faith and culture.

Visuals: The UnHanging of the Greens is on Sunday, January 29 from 3-5:00 pm. We'll work around the Christmas trees when we set up for Faith in Film.

- Movie reels (Mary Scott), Oscar, Posters
- Director's clapboard and chair
- Popcorn and popcorn maker (Mary Scott, Myke's church, Jack Heethouse). Boxes of candy.
- Tickets
- Marquee (chalkboard with string of 25 globe lights)
- Big display: "Now Showing" and "Coming Attractions"
- Video previews
- Movie countdowns
- Specific items for each movie - costumes, props, etc.

Publicity: "See You on Sunday!", January Harbor Light, movie posters (in church)

Activity: Show each movie at church. Offer free popcorn (can be purchased at Sam's Club or WESCO).

Social Justice Issue for January 2023: Human Trafficking

Noisy offering: Hope Project/Lakeshore Human Trafficking task force

General discussion points:

- What movies made a long-lasting impression on you and why?
 - *The Sound of Music* – Music. Quote: "Live the life you want to live." (1965)
 - *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* – Dark theme. Synopsis: In the midst of the Great Depression, manipulative emcee enlists contestants for a dance marathon offering a \$1,500 cash prize. Among them are a failed actress, a middle-aged sailor, a delusional blonde and a pregnant girl. Days turn into weeks as the competition drags on and people either drop out or expire. Rocky, however, will do anything for publicity and initiates a series of grueling derbies. (1969)
 - *Schindler's List* –the choices people were forced to get through the war alive. (1993)
 - *Forrest Gump* – history learned while watching it. "Gumpisms." (1985)

- *Life Is Beautiful* – WWII movie – a Jewish father tries to shelter his son from the horrors of their surroundings in a concentration camp (1997)
- *E.T.* – imaginative (1982)
- *2001 Space Odyssey* – interactions between man and his spaceship’s computer system, HAL (1968)
- *Mask* – Story of a mother’s love and son’s perseverance is the face of a facial deformity (1985)
- *Elephant Man* – Synopsis: Dr. Frederic Treves discovers Joseph Merrick in a sideshow. Born with a congenital disorder, Merrick uses his disfigurement to earn a living as the "Elephant Man." Treves brings Merrick into his home, discovering that his rough exterior hides a refined soul, and that Merrick can teach the stodgy British upper class of the time a lesson about dignity. Merrick becomes the toast of London and charms a caring actress before his death at 27. (1982)
- *Star Wars* – Combination of science fiction, fantasy elements, and special effects. (1977, 1980, 1983, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2015, 2017, 2019)
- *Saving Private Ryan* – Seeing the horrors of war up close. Honor and courage. (1998)
- *Hallmark movies* – Predictability. Escapism. Nostalgia.
- Movies about athletic teams overcoming adversity. Examples: *Overcomer*, *Facing the Giants*, *Remember the Titans*
- *We Are Marshall* – Grief and rebuilding after the plane carrying a university football team crashed, killing all 75 football players, staff, and boosters. (2006)
- *Coat of Many Colors* – Dolly Parton’s story of overcoming adversity. Song – “Hard Candy Christmas.” (2015)
- *The Outlaw, Josey Wales* – Story of revenge and trying to start over (Clint Eastwood) (1976)
- *Black Panther* – Superhero. (2018, 2022)
- *Shawshank Redemption* – Two prisoners find solace and eventual redemption through common acts of decency. (1994)
- *The Green Mile* - Set in the 1930s at the Cold Mountain Penitentiary's death-row facility, The Green Mile is the riveting and tragic story of **John Coffey, a giant, preternaturally gentle inmate condemned to death for the rape and murder of twin nine-year-old girls.** (1999)
- *Men in Black* – Humor. Sometimes you just need some fun. (1997, 2002, 2012, 2019)
- *James Bond movies* – Especially *Goldfinger*. Escapism. 27 movies with various actors as Bond. (1962-2021)
- *Old Yeller* – Young boy and his dog. (1957)
- *Gone with the Wind* – Romance. Civil War. History. (1939)
- *Hidden Figures* – Previously untold story of three black women’s role in winning the space race. (2016)
- *Stalag 13* – WWII prisoner of war camp.
- Why are sequels popular? They keep on giving us what we want.

- Inspirational movies seem to be more common now.
- Watching movies (and television) is no longer a communal experience as people are free to stream most anything, any time.
- Jim and Karen plan to make Tuesday afternoons their time to go to the movies.
- Ed’s dad was Polish POW. Over 2,000 people died every day.
- Jean recalled conversations with a Polish friend, a Hebrew speaking Jew who converted to Catholicism.

January 8, 2023: “Called to Community”

Marcel the Shell with Shoes On (PG, 2022)

Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord

Film synopsis: Marcel is an adorable one-inch-tall shell who ekes out a colorful existence with his grandmother, Connie, and their pet lint, Alan. Once part of a sprawling community of shells, they now live alone as the sole survivors of a mysterious tragedy. However, when a documentary filmmaker discovers them, the short film he posts online brings Marcel millions of passionate fans, as well as unprecedented dangers and a new hope of finding his long-lost family.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k98Afd7Nf3Y>

Free movie and popcorn: Monday, January 2 at 4:00 pm



Scripture: I Thessalonians 5: 8-24 (NIV)

⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Final Instructions

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Synopsis: From the beginning, we're called into relationship - with God and each other. Baptism calls us into deeper community with others who seek to follow Jesus and whose hope is in him. In a time when the nature of community is changing, when we connect in many different ways, reaching out to one another is vital as a part of our call to be disciples and make disciples.

Felt need: To find community and be encouraged by one another

Visuals:

Hands-on item: Small shells (without community, we are just empty shells). *Note:* Karen ordered two packages of 40-50 spiral shells from Amazon for \$10.99 each. They will arrive December 31, 2022.

Activity:

Media possibilities: Trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k98Afd7Nf3Y>

Music: #114 *Many Gifts, One Spirit*

Children's Time:

Social media:

Related articles:

- <https://thinkchristian.net/marcel-the-early-church-member>
- <https://screenfish.net/marcel-the-shell-with-shoes-on/>
- <https://sojo.net/articles/i-needed-tiny-shell-play-me-amazing-grace-curly-pasta?fbclid=IwAR2flGxtcB7IxiEZ1zK9Kr2Gbr2kM0jjoLSAbcyeE8A9utxcaYvCrm73DI8>

This article is especially good.

- <https://rabbitroom.com/2022/08/marcel-the-shells-movie-is-good-medicine-for-our-pandemic-recovery/>
- <https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/movies-tv/jenny-slate-shares-the-origin-story-of-marcel-the-shell-it-felt-refreshing-and-affirming>

Discussion points: 1) On January 1 we'll offer a covenant renewal and reaffirmation of baptism. 2) I Thessalonians was addressed to a Christian community. 3) Marcel the Shell was a YouTube series for 10 years. Most young adults (like Ana) knew of Marcel before the movie was released. Ana even has a Marcel figurine. 4) Marcel is cute, very intelligent, and very sad at having lost his community. His home is now an Air BnB since the couple that owned it split. Unbeknownst to Marcel, most of his community fled to the sock drawer during one of the couple's arguments and were later packed up with the guy's clothes when he left. 5) It is surprising that a shell can



display so much human emotion. 6) The Air BnB's current resident is Dean. He moved there after separating from his wife. Dean makes YouTube videos. After putting Marcel's story on YouTube, Marcel is famous, but Marcel said what they found was an audience, not a community. 7) Reflections on social media:

- Social media is much better at creating audiences than community.
- Being in constant communication is not necessarily helpful. How can kids grown up and parents let go if they are always checking in?
- It is used differently by millennials and those born before 1980.
- FOMO – fear of missing out
- Don't create authentic relationships

8) Marcel confronts Dean: Have you actually tried to connect to other people instead of making movies about them? 9) Authentic relationships can happen at church with people who really do care. 9) Marcel would not have gone on *60 Minutes* without his nana Connie's encouragement. She said he has to be willing to open up to others. 10) A shell is a good metaphor for what we are without community - empty. 11) In one of the articles, actress Jenny Slate talks about how she felt small in a big crowd of people. 12) What does community offer? Belonging, grace, comfort, safety, caring, life skills, accountability (as Christians, our actions should match our words), trust love.

January 15, 2023: "Spirit Given"

Encanto (PG, 2021)

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany, Human Relations Day

Film synopsis: Encanto tells the tale of the Madrigals, an extraordinary family who live in a wondrous, charmed place called an Encanto. Each child has been blessed with a magic gift unique to them—each child except Mirabel. But when the family's home is threatened, Mirabel may be their only hope. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaimKeDcudo>



Free movie and popcorn: Sunday, January 8 at 4:00 pm

Scripture: I Corinthians 1: 1-9, 12: 1-11 (NIV)

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³ Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of **wisdom**, to another a message of **knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another **speaking in different kinds of tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation of tongues**. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Spiritual gifts are highlighted in yellow. These spiritual gifts are listed elsewhere:

- Administration
- Apostleship
- Encouragement (aka exhortation)
- Evangelism
- Giving
- Leadership
- Mercy
- Pastor/shepherd
- Serving/helping
- Teaching

Synopsis: The church is the Body of Christ, and we celebrate God’s presence with us in him. As followers of Jesus and leaders, each one of us is an important part of the whole. Even when we don’t feel that our part is vital, God is using each of us and our gifts to make a difference for good in the world.

Felt need: To claim the gift of Jesus and to claim our spiritual gifts and recognize them in one another

Visuals: Green woven paraments – have people’s names and spiritual gifts written on the strips of fabric.

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities: Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaimKeDcudo>

Music: #620 *One Bread, One Body*

Children's Time:

Social media:

Related articles:

- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/stop-teaching-spiritual-gifts-watch-encanto-instead>
- [“Encanto’s Ode to Mental Health”](#) from “Think Christian” Jan. 26, 2022

Spiritual gifts test: <https://www.adultbiblestudies.com/spiritual-gifts-survey>

Discussion points: 1) “Encanto” is Spanish for enchantment or charm. 2) Mirabel’s grandma says their gifts are meant to strengthen their home and community. We would say that they build up the Body of Christ. Gifts are not about individuals. Every church has all the gifts present in its members whether we recognize it or not. Yes, that even include the gift of speaking in tongues and interpreting tongues. 2) The speaking in tongues gifts can refer to a private prayer language, ease in learning other languages, or in understanding other people (like toddler talk). 3) We are all more than our gifts. We will encourage people to take an inventory of spiritual gifts. It is much easier to serve in areas where your gift is valued. Serving in the wrong area can suck the life out of you. 4) Mirabel (which means “wonderful”) wonders what her gift is. From Google: Throughout Encanto, Mirabel has the nerve to figure out why the magical house is cracking, and she doesn't need supernatural gifts to accomplish her goal. Mirabel's gift is **her intelligent determination**, and she had that all along. 5) Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit. 6) Some people question whether they have been given any gift. Why? Maybe they don't want to have to commit to using it or fear failure. Sometimes others recognize our spiritual gifts before we do. 6) Effective pastors and leaders sense people’s gifts and encourage (and allow) people to use them. 7) It is nice to have accurate gift descriptions which includes ways to use the gifts. Check out: <https://spiritualgiftstest.com/spiritual-gifts/> and <https://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm> (scroll down the page to find links to examples of each gift in use)

January 22, 2023: “Living a ‘No Fear’ Faith”

Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13, 2022)

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Film synopsis: After more than thirty years of service as one of the Navy’s top aviators, Pete Mitchell is where he belongs, pushing the envelope as a courageous test pilot and dodging the advancement in rank that would ground him.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSqVVswa420>

Free movie and popcorn: Sunday, January 15 at 4:00 pm

Scripture: Ephesians 4: 1-16

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

⁴ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Synopsis: The goal of our spiritual lives is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ so that the world is transformed. It requires us to live with courage and confidence in God’s grace, honesty and humility in our struggles and joys, and trust in God and each other.

Felt need: To be followers who lead with faith, courage, and a willingness to risk for the greater good – and do it together

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities: Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSqVVswa420>

Music: #534 *Be Still, My Soul*; #2224 *Make Us One*

Children’s Time:



Social media:

Related articles:

- [“Minister Maverick”](#) from “Think Christian,” June 16, 2022
- <https://thefulcrum.us/Pop-Culture/Dance-Theatre--Film/top-gun-maverick>

Discussion points: 1) “Top Gun” (1986) cost \$15,000,000. “Top Gun: Maverick” (2022) cost \$170,000,000. *Maverick* made \$357,000,000. 2) Other Tom Cruise movies: *Risky Business*, *The Outsiders*, and more. 3) Ivan saw the movie twice on his own then once with Mary. What kept him coming back? Feel good ending. Reconciliation (called back into community). Something about him being a leader (like Jesus and his disciples). 4) Other people said: Authenticity (as a leader). He was still trying to do both important and impossible work. He was a rebel without being a head honcho. We like the predictability of a sequel. 5) Val Kilmer appears in the movie as Iceman. Though ill, he is Maverick’s advocate. 6) Lessons from the movie: Pull together to do the impossible. Be humble. Reconcile. You don’t have to be in charge to make a difference. Parallels to Scripture: Jesus was a rebel. He did the unexpected. He was humble leader and teacher.

January 29, 2023: “God’s Greater Love”

Avengers: Endgame (PG-13, 2019)

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Film synopsis: Adrift in space with no food or water, Tony Stark sends a message to Pepper Potts as his oxygen supply starts to dwindle. Meanwhile, the remaining Avengers -- Thor, Black Widow, Captain America and Bruce Banner – must figure out a way to bring back their vanquished allies for an epic showdown with Thanos -- the evil demigod who decimated the planet and the universe.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcMBFSGVi1c>

The culmination of all the groundwork laid by the 21 films that came before it, *Avengers: Endgame* features all the favorites in an inter-galactic, time jumping battle to save the world after "The Snap."

Free movie and popcorn: Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 pm

Scripture: John 15: 1-17

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

Synopsis: The struggle to love as God loves is real, yet we know the power of that love in moments when we experience it from others. To be a friend of Jesus is to be connected to him and know that we’re able to love as he loves, but it takes intentional community with others who are pursuing the same goal.

Felt need: To pursue God’s agape love and be willing to sacrifice for others in Jesus’ name

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities: Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcMBFSGVi1c>

Music:

Social media:

Related articles:

- <https://thinkchristian.net/soul-stones-and-sacrifice-in-avengers-endgame>
- <https://intervarsity.org/blog/avengers-endgame-christianity>
- <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/05/the-gifts-of-discipleship-in-avengers-endgame/>
- <https://media.pauline.org/reviews/ArticleID/896/Avengers-Endgame-The-Value-of-Sacrifice>
- <https://chaplainsreport.com/2019/05/14/the-art-of-ending-well-grief-grieving-and-avengers-endgame/>
- <https://rootedministry.com/talking-to-students-about-avengers-endgame/>

Discussion points: 1) The Avengers is an enormous, Marvel comic book-based franchise. Its heroes include Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, Black Widow, Hulk, Black Panther, Shuri, Okoye, Ant-Man, Wasp, Doctor Strange, Winter Soldier, Hawkeye, Falcon, Maria Hill, Vision, Hulkbuster, War Machine, and Nick Fury. They are part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Spiderman and the Guardians of the Galaxy are also Marvel characters. They are separate from the DC comics characters that includes Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Robin, Martian Manhunter, The Flash, Green Lantern, Aquaman, Green Arrow, Harley Quinn, and more as well as teams such as the Justice League, Teen Titans, and the Suicide Squad. Occasionally there are crossover movies that include characters from Marvel and DC. 2) What comic books do you remember from childhood? *Archi, Superman, Flash*. None, but I remember my cousin, Gib, reading lots of different comics. 3) Some kids, who are otherwise reluctant readers, get hooked on reading with comic books. 4) Why are comics appealing? Ongoing stories. Predictable story lines of sacrifice and good conquering evil – in some ways they aren't that much different than movies on the Hallmark Channel. 4) Scripture parallel: Friends of Jesus live in community, pursuing a common goal of fighting evil. 5) Comic Con, a comic book convention and entertainment event, is a form of community. What is the appeal? Shared interest. Chance to be nerdy. Role playing. Fantasy. Anime and Renaissance Fairs are examples of similar communities with somewhat different focusses. 6) Why are comic book story lines compelling? Good conquers evil. Each hero has a fatal flaw. It gives readers/viewers a chance to temporarily suspend reality. We all want to be heroes. We want to root for the underdog. 7) Memories of pretending to be a superhero as a child: Wearing underoos. Pretending to be Mighty Mouse (and yes, someone started singing the song).