



Amazing Grace

The true story of William Wilberforce's fight against slavery

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Overview

In 1797, there were 11 million African slaves. Most people found the practice acceptable. In the minority, however, was William Wilberforce, an elected Member of Parliament who toiled for years to abolish slavery in Britain. Fueled by his faith, the "Conscience of Parliament" persevered and made history. Now, on the 200th anniversary of the slave trade's abolition in Britain, comes a movie chronicling Wilberforce's fight.

Discussion Guide

- Action, Not Just Meditation (James 1:27; Acts 10:4; Matthew 25:34–40; James 2:8; Proverbs 31:8–9; Luke 10:25–37; Acts:11:27–30; James 1:22–25; 2:15–18)
 - What Is Ministry? (1 Peter 2:5–12; 2 Timothy 4:1–5)
 - Seeing Is Believing? (John 20:24–29; Hebrews 11:1–3)
1. What are your thoughts about Wilberforce's prayer time in his backyard garden (see Matthew 6:5-7)? Does God provide an answer to his prayer? In what form?
 2. In the movie, Wilberforce describes his life as changed by God—"He found me." Is Wilberforce's initial response proper or misguided? Are we called to a life of piety, or to serve as the hands and feet of God?
 3. What does it mean to be "in the world, not of it," and how do we avoid "cocooning"?
 4. Wilberforce makes many "unpopular" decisions in this story. Would you have done the same under similar circumstances? What about pressures to your health or your individual freedom? What temptations does Wilberforce face in his efforts?
 5. How do we find the courage to press on for what's right? What guidance do we have?
 6. Wilberforce helped spark change that affected world history and social justice for good. Where does such change begin? What qualities need to be secure in order to take such action?
 7. Wilberforce is depicted as a skilled orator. What makes him so effective? Wit? Intelligence? Persistence? His faith? What can we learn from the manner in which he engaged his opponents?
 8. Do you believe Wilberforce wins his cause honorably? Does he "cheat," as said in the film, or is he simply playing to the faults of his opponents?

9. John Newton tells Wilberforce that faith sometimes comes more like a slow drip than a bolt of lightning. Do you agree? Can you give examples in your own life? Is either more or less powerful than the other?
10. Read 1 Timothy chapters 1 and 4. In what ways does Wilberforce characterize Paul's instructions to Timothy?
11. Among the first people to be heavily involved in the abolition movement—in Great Britain and in the United States—were members of religious groups like the Quakers. Why do you think this was so?

(Questions by Christianity Today & AmazingGraceTheMovie.com)