



RELATED SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Comfort in discouragement:

Psalm 18:2;
Psalm 22:24;
Psalm 73:26;
Psalm 119:50;
Isaiah 41:10;
Isaiah 43:2; 2
Corinthians 1:3-4;
1 Peter 5:6-7

**RELATED CATECHISM OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES:**

Difficulties in prayer:
2729-33

Not being heard:
2734-2737

RELATED YOUCAT REFERENCES:

Aversion to prayer:
490

Is prayer ineffective:
507

Distractions during prayer:
508

ADÁN IN THE DESERT

NOTE: This film is presented as a series in four episodes.

SYNOPSIS

As Adán struggles to understand the inevitable loss of his mother, his prayers of desperation begin to draw him into an honest and simple search for God. With the help of an unexpected friend, Adán is able to face his circumstances with the hope that his mother prayed he would find.

SUGGESTED USES FOR THIS VIDEO

✝ This is a film better fit for older teens as it is more abstract and symbolic in style. It can be used to discuss loss, questioning God, being honest with God, learning to be grateful, or finding meaning in suffering.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What do you think Adán's biggest struggle is?
2. He says, "I asked for a miracle. I asked every day." Have you ever felt like this? Can you share the experience? Did you get the miracle you asked for? If not, how did you handle that?
3. Adán says that whenever he tried to pray, "Thy will be done," he would get a lump in his throat. Why?
4. What are we really praying when we say, "Thy will be done?"
5. When it's hard to surrender to the will of God, what do you do? What did Adán do?
6. The quote opening Episode 2 says, "Here God and the devil struggle and the battlefield is the human heart." (Fyodor Dostoyevsky) What does this mean?
7. How does Philippians 2:9-11 respond to that quote?
8. In Episode 2, Adán is really struggling with losing his mom. He accuses God of talking things away. Have you ever felt like this? What happened? What did you do? Did you resolve things with God?
9. How would you respond to Adán?
10. Episode 3 opens with this quote from St. Teresa of Kolkata: "As for me, the silence and emptiness is so great that I look and do not see, listen and do not hear. The tongue moves but does not speak." Are you surprised to hear this from Mother Teresa?

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11. How did she respond to this silence from God? What were the results of this response?
12. Why do you think God allows these times of silence?
13. Who does God send to Adán and why?
14. They have both suffered tragedy. How did the stranger choose to respond?
15. How does this relate to 1 Thessalonians 5:18? Why would St. Paul tell us to give thanks in all circumstances?
16. The stranger says, "When we ask for help, we pray. When we say thank you, we are praying. When we look at a sunrise and say 'Wow,' that's as real as prayer can get." St. Paul said something similar in verse 17 of 1 Thessalonians 5: "Pray without ceasing." How does the stranger's explanation of prayer make prayer without ceasing seem more possible?
17. The opening quote of Episode 4 says, "Prayer does not change God but changes the person who prays." (Søren Kierkegaard) How often do you pray hoping to influence God in your direction? How might your prayer change if you were open to that prayer changing you instead of God?
18. How did prayer change Adán?
19. Has prayer ever changed you?



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