



“REEL FAITH”

The Gospel according to Hollywood

Film and Faith in Dialogue

Shine - Overview

Directed by Scott Hicks (1996)



Summary

Inspired by the troubled but ultimately triumphant life of Australian pianist David Helfgott, *Shine* focuses on Helfgott's painful retreat into a private world while still in his early 20's and on the brink of a glittering international career. Spanning the 1950's to the 1980's, *Shine* dramatizes how Helfgott, after a decade of obscurity, achieves both personal and professional fulfillment through the love and support of a remarkable woman.

Themes

Love & friendship...overcoming adversity...acceptance...redemption...freedom from fear and bondage

Some Cast Members You'll Recognize

- Geoffrey Rush – David as an adult
- Noah Taylor – David as a young man
- Lynn Redgrave – Gillian, David's wife
- John Gielgud – Cecil Parkes, David's teacher at the Royal College of Music

Connections with Scripture

Human Love:

- **Proverbs 17:17** – “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

God's Love:

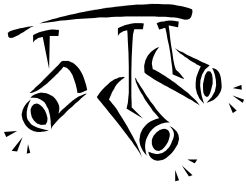
- **Romans 5:6-8** – “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Freedom:

- **Romans 8:2-3** – “...through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do n that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.”

Memorable Lines

- David's father: “In this world only the strong survive. The weak get crushed like insects.”
- Cecil Parkes, David's teacher in London: “I know life is cruel, but... but music... music will always be your friend... everything else will let you down in the end. Everything. Believe me... everything.”
- David: “I was born fragile, father said. I was just born that way. He said I was a nervous baby. Just born like that.”



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***Shine* - Discussion Guide**

We Meet David Helfgott

Start 1/O:01:05, Stop 1/O:02:55

Start 2/O:02:58, Stop 2/O:05:16

David as a Boy

Start 3/O:05:17, Stop 3/O:12:00

David as a Teenager

Start 8/O:28:44, Stop 8/O:31:20

Start 10/O:44:04, Stop 10/O:47:22

David at the Royal College of Music

Start 12/O:52:15, Stop 12/O:55:57

Start 14/O:58:50, Stop 14/1:06:24

David Finds His Way

Start 16/1:16:36, Stop 16/1:18:36

Start 17/1:18:44, Stop 17/1:22:34

Start 18/1:22:37, Stop 18/1:26:15

Start 21/1:37:45, Stop 21/1:41:14

Questions for Your Table

1. Did you identify in any way with David? How might we say he represents all of us?
2. How does this movie help us understand the gospel?
3. How does David eventually find hope in spite of his mental illness?
4. With what applications to the church does this movie challenge us with?