



## *Amazing Grace*

### **Film Synopsis**

*Amazing Grace* depicts the true story of William Wilberforce, a courageous young man who was first elected to the House of Commons in the British Parliament at the young age of 21. Set over the course of the late 18th century and early 19th century, the film illustrates Wilberforce's 20-year endeavor to abolish the slave trade in Great Britain. After learning about the inhumanities of the slave trade from a former slave and upheld by his strong moral convictions, Wilberforce becomes determined to lead the parliamentary campaign against the trade. Despite the encouragement and assistance of his abolitionist friends and family members, Wilberforce witnesses years of fierce resistance from his fellow Members of Parliament and the defeat of countless bills. Eventually his hard work and dedication to the cause are rewarded with the passing of a bill in 1807. *Amazing Grace* highlights important themes such as anti-slavery, dedication to your beliefs, collective action, and leadership.



*William Wilberforce*

*1759 - 1833*

**Discussion questions for *Amazing Grace***

1. Early in the movie, Wilberforce wrestles with whether to serve God or to serve as a political activist. The tension is illustrated well in William Pitt's questions to him: "*Do you intend to use your beautiful voice to praise the Lord or to change the world?*" How is the tension resolved and what lessons can we learn from this?
2. What is the primary leadership lesson you'd like to remember from this story?
3. Wilberforce changes how thousands of people in Great Britain view slavery. Have you ever experienced a change of view regarding a certain issue or have you ever been torn between two different sides of an issue? If so, how and why did you change your perspective and/or how have you wrestled or resolved being torn between two sides of an issue?
4. What attributes of William Wilberforce would you like to cultivate?"
5. Is there some great issue to which you are called to effect change? If so, what is it and what is a first step that you could do to begin to effect change? What about your faith community?

*Adapted from Heartland Film*