

Films to Educate Your Congregation and Spark Work for Justice

Film can motivate people to take action! Even better it takes the pressure off of you! You don't need to be the expert here – the movie is the expert!

Below you'll find a mix of films, both documentary and feature, that can get the conversation (and possibly the action) flowing in your congregation.

Note: Because movies can have a powerful impact on the viewer it is important to pre-screen your movies to make sure they're appropriate for your audience.

THE BIG SELLOUT

Running Time: 94 minutes

Documentary – Economic Justice

Traveling throughout both the developing and industrialized world, we are brought face-to-face with the architects of the reigning world economic order, as well as with the people bearing the brunt of their policies.

<http://www.newsreel.org/nav/title.asp?tc=CN0200&s>

Companion Materials

From the UCC -- Privatization: a Challenge to the Common Good <http://www.ucc.org/justice/economic-justice/privatization-1.html>



THE VISITOR

Running Time: 104 minutes

Feature Film – Immigration

In Connecticut, the widower and lonely Professor Walter Vale has a boring life. Walter is assigned to attend a conference about Global Policy and Development at the New York University, where he is to give a lecture about a paper that he has co-authored. When he arrives at his apartment in New York, he finds Tarek Khalil, a Syrian musician, and Zainab, a Senegalese street vendor living there. He sympathizes with the situation of the undocumented immigrants and invites the couple to stay with him. Tarek invites him to go to his gig in the Jules Live Jazz and Walter is fascinated with his African drum. Tarek offers to teach Walter to play the drum. However, after an incident in the subway, Tarek is arrested by the police and sent to a detention center of immigrants...

<http://www.thevisitorfilm.com/>

Companion Materials

The film's study guide http://www.activevoice.net/pdf/The_Visitor_Discussion_Guide.pdf

UCC web pages on immigration <http://www.ucc.org/justice/immigration>



THE STORY OF STUFF

Running Time: 20 minutes

Animated Documentary Short – Consumerism



From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. **The Story of Stuff** is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. **The Story of Stuff** exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us to together create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever. <http://www.storyofstuff.com>

Companion Materials

Discussion Guide to accompany the film <http://www.storyofstuff.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/reading-guide.pdf>

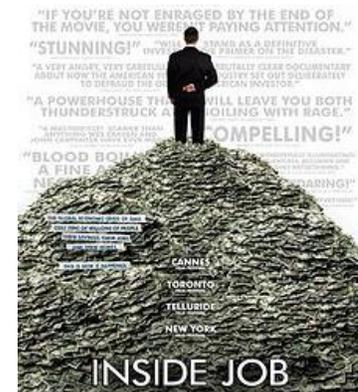
INSIDE JOB

Running time: 120 minutes

Documentary – Financial Meltdown

Inside Job provides a comprehensive analysis of the global financial crisis of 2008 which, at a cost over \$20 trillion, caused millions of people to lose their jobs and homes in the worst recession since the Great Depression, and nearly resulted in a global financial collapse. Through exhaustive research and extensive interviews with key financial insiders, politicians, journalists, and academics, the film traces the rise of a rogue industry which has corrupted politics, regulation, and academia.

<http://www.sonyclassics.com/insidejob/>



Companion Material

UCC web pages on the economic crisis <http://www.ucc.org/justice/financial-crisis/>

Film's study guide http://www.sonyclassics.com/insidejob/_pdf/InsideJob_StudyGuide.pdf

T-SHIRT TRAVELS

Running Time: 60 minutes

Documentary – Globalization

When filmmaker Shantha Bloemen was stationed in a remote village in Zambia as a worker with an international aid organization, she had to adjust to living in a different culture. But one thing struck was oddly familiar: almost everyone in the village wore secondhand clothing from the West, from the village elder decked out in a Chanel knockoff jacket to women in AC/DC T-shirts to children sporting Adidas sneakers. What began as an amusement, however, began to take on more serious overtones as Bloemen learned of the consequences of the secondhand clothing trade. She decided to follow the trail of the secondhand clothes.

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/tshirttravels/film.html>



Companion Materials

How Susie Bayer's T-Shirt Ended Up on Yusuf Mama's Back" by George Packer, *New York Times* March 31, 2002. <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/03/31/magazine/how-susie-bayer-s-t-shirt-ended-up-on-yusuf-mama-s-back.html?scp=1&sq=How%20Susie%20Bayer's%20T-Shirt%20Ended%20Up%20on%20Yusuf%20Mama's%20Back&st=cse>

BLACK GOLD

Running Time: 77 minutes

Documentary – Coffee, small farmers, and fair trade

After oil, coffee is the most actively traded commodity in the world. But for every \$2 cup of coffee, a farmer receives only a few pennies. <http://www.newsreel.org/nav/title.asp?tc=CN0190&s>



Companion Materials

The UCC Coffee Project with Equal Exchange: buy fair trade coffee and other products. <http://www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project/>

MAQUILAPOLIS (city of factories)

Running Time: 68 minutes

Documentary – Sweatshops in Mexico

The inspiring story of women workers in Tijuana who, though laboring for poverty wages, still stand up to transnational corporations to win severance pay and to clean up toxic waste sites.

<http://www.newsreel.org/nav/title.asp?tc=CN0192&s>



Companion Materials

UCC webpage on sweatshops <http://www.ucc.org/justice/sweatshops/>

A KILLER BARGAIN

Running time: 57 minutes

Documentary – Sweatshops

The killer bargain referred to by this documentary's title is the availability of cheap consumer goods, imported by Western companies, whose prices don't reflect the human and environmental costs of their production.

<http://www.newsreel.org/nav/title.asp?tc=CN0195&s>



Companion Materials

UCC web page on sweatshops <http://www.ucc.org/justice/sweatshops/>

Shop with a conscience consumer guide <http://www.sweatfree.org/shoppingguide>

THE DEBT OF DICTATORS

Running Time: 45 minutes

Documentary – Debt held by poor countries

The first film to expose the nefarious lending of billions of dollars by multinational banks and international financial institutions to brutal dictators throughout the world

<http://www.newsreel.org/nav/title.asp?tc=CN0193&s>

Companion Materials

Check out the materials at Jubilee USA <http://www.jubileeusa.org/>

JWM web page on debt in poor countries <http://www.ucc.org/justice/jubilee-debt-relief/>



THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

Running Time: 56 minutes

Documentary – Environmental contamination

This film looks at a Great Lakes oil town facing a toxic legacy head-on. The nerve center of Canada's petrochemical industry, Sarnia once enjoyed the highest standard of living in the country- but now the bill has come due, in compromised environmental and community health.

<http://www.newsreel.org/nav/title.asp?tc=CN0196&s>

Companion Materials

UCC environmental ministries web pages <http://www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries/>



LIFE AND DEBT

Running Time: 86 minutes

Documentary – Debt held by poor countries

Utilizing excerpts from the award-winning non-fiction text "A Small Place" by Jamaica Kincaid, Life & Debt is a woven tapestry of sequences focusing on the stories of individual Jamaicans whose strategies for survival and parameters of day-to-day existence are determined by the U.S. and other foreign economic agendas. By combining traditional documentary telling with a stylized narrative framework, the complexity of international lending, structural adjustment policies and free trade will be understood in the context of the day-to-day realities of the people whose lives they impact. www.lifeanddebt.org

Companion Materials

Check out the materials at Jubilee USA <http://www.jubileeusa.org/>

JWM web page on debt in poor countries <http://www.ucc.org/justice/jubilee-debt-relief/>



THE CORPORATION

Running Time: 145 minutes

Documentary – the nature of corporations today

Provoking, witty, stylish and sweepingly informative, THE CORPORATION explores the nature and spectacular rise of the dominant institution of our time. Part film and part movement, The Corporation is transforming audiences and dazzling critics with its insightful and compelling analysis.

<http://thecorporation.com>

Companion Materials

Resources from the Center for Corporate Policy <http://www.corporatepolicy.org/index.htm>

You may also be interested in seeing Michael Moore's film, *Capitalism, a Love Story*

<http://michaelmoore.com/books-films/capitalism-love-story/>



THE END OF POVERTY

Running Time: 104 minutes

Documentary – Traces the causes of poverty over the past 500 years.

THE END OF POVERTY? is a daring, thought-provoking and very timely documentary by award-winning filmmaker, Philippe Diaz, revealing that poverty is not an accident. It began with military conquest, slavery and colonization that resulted in the seizure of land, minerals and forced labor. Today, global poverty has reached new levels because of unfair debt, trade and tax policies -- in other words, wealthy countries exploiting the weaknesses of poor, developing countries.



Companion Materials

UCC Poverty webpage <http://www.ucc.org/justice/poverty/>

World Communion of Reformed Churches' Accra Confession

<http://www.ucc.org/justice/globalization/pdfs/ACCRA-Confession.pdf>

Globalization We Can Grasp <http://www.ucc.org/justice/globalization/global-grasp/>