A Life of Love,
Courage & Fellowship

TOLKIEN
12A

Watch the new film about the life of renowned author J.R.R Tolkien, in cinemas 3rd May – then discuss and reflect together.

PART 1: FINDING FELLOWSHIP

DISCUSS

1. At the heart of the film are Tolkien's close friendships with his schoolmates. How do they transform his life? What talents and qualities do his friends bring out in him?

2. What are some of the most significant friendships in your life, and how have they changed you? How can we support and encourage our friends to be their best selves?

3. Tolkien's closest friendships were tested by war: how can our relationships endure under fire? What makes friendship so precious during tough times?

4. Why do you think so many people struggle with loneliness in today's world? How could our society place a higher value on friendship?

5. What might we learn about true friendship from Tolkien's life and work? What ingredients help make our relationships deep and lasting?

REFLECT

In a moment of quiet, reflect on the friendships you're most grateful for – past or present. Resolve to reconnect with an old friend, or do something kind for someone in your life, at some point in the next week.

PART 2: UNEXPECTED JOURNEYS

DISCUSS

1. Did you learn anything new from the film about Tolkien's life? Which scenes particularly surprised or moved you?

2. Could you relate to anything in his journey as he grew up? What incidents might feature in a film about your own life?

3. Can you think of a time when life didn't go the way you hoped or planned? What did you learn, and how were you changed by the experience?

4. How can we prepare to 'expect the unexpected' in our lives? What personal qualities, and what kind of support from others, might help us when things don't go our way?

5. What are you most grateful for in your own journey so far? Where do you hope that life will take you in the future?

REFLECT

To Tolkien and his friends, the motto 'Helheimr' represented living life to the fullest. In a moment of quiet, think about what your own motto for life could be. If you would like to, share with a friend.