





# About the film

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Ballygar, Dublin, Ireland, 1967: close friends Lily (Maggie Smith), Eileen (Kathy Bates), and Dolly (Agnes O'Casey) win the trip of a lifetime - a pilgrimage to Lourdes. With each woman desperately in need of a personal miracle, the trip seems like an answer to all their prayers. But when they are joined by Chrissie (Laura Linney), returning to Dublin after decades in America, deep wounds from the past are re-opened and bitter truths exposed. As they confront one another and embrace their shared past, the group reckon with revelations that will change them forever. Directed by Thaddeus O'Sullivan, *The Miracle Club* is a heartfelt story of friendship, family, and forgiveness.

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You can use this resource to plan an activity for your group. The questions will help you explore ideas around hope, strength and vulnerability. Please use whichever parts of this resource you feel are appropriate for your group.



# Quiz: how closely were you watching?

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1. What year is the film set in?

- a. 1985
- b. 1966
- c. 1967

2. What song do Eileen, Lily and Dolly sing at the talent contest?

- a. He's So Fine by The Chiffons
- b. Crying in the Chapel by Elvis Presley
- c. Respect by Aretha Franklin

3. What colour is Chrissie's coat when she arrives in Ballygar?

- a. Black
- b. Red
- c. Yellow

4. What's the second prize at the talent contest?

- a. A goose
- b. A bacon joint
- c. A chess set

5. What gift does Daniel choose in the souvenir shop at Lourdes?

- a. A notebook and pencil
- b. A teddy bear
- c. A snow-globe

6. What does Frank cook for his family while Eileen is away?

- a. A goose
- b. A bacon joint
- c. A pot of stew

7. According to the nun who Eileen asks, how many miracles have there been in Lourdes since 1858?

- a. 6000
- b. 62
- c. 6



# Discuss the film

1. What did you think of the film, and which moments particularly stood out to you? Which characters or scenes did you enjoy the most?

**'It's best to get it off your chest.'**

5. Have you ever gone on a journey that meant something to you personally? Did you find what you were looking for, and were you changed in any way?

2. How are Lily, Eileen, Dolly and Chrissie's lives portrayed when we first meet them? In what ways are they different, and what might they have in common?

**'You don't come to Lourdes for a miracle. You come to Lourdes for the strength to go on when there is no miracle.'**

6. What happens when the women are honest with each other about the past, and their own guilt and regrets? How can shared honesty and vulnerability be healing?

3. How does the film portray the home lives of the central characters? What challenges do the women face in their marriages and families? How do their husbands change and grow while they are away?

**'Not everyone goes to Lourdes for a cure.'**

7. What gives each of the characters the strength to face up to the difficult things in their lives? How do you find strength to face challenges in your own life?

4. What does the trip to Lourdes mean to each of the women when they set out, and what are they hoping to find there? Are they escaping from anything?

**'There's hope, even when you don't completely believe.'**

8. What, in your opinion, is the real miracle in the story? What has changed in the women's lives when they return from Lourdes? What do you imagine might happen to them next?



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