

Optional Lesson Day 6: (50 min.)

In this lesson you will show clips from the movie “Amazing Grace” to demonstrate the resistance the government of Great Britain had towards the abolishment of the slave trade as well as to show the efforts of those who supported the abolishment of the trade.

Video Clip 1- William Wilberforce’s dinner table

1. **Say-** We have been studying the effects the slave trade had on people throughout the world. In this lesson, we will be examining the efforts taken by abolitionists in England in their pursuit to abolish the slave trade. To do so, we will be watching clips from the movie “Amazing Grace.” Most of what we will be watching takes place in the meeting place of the British Parliament which was the group of people who created and voted on laws, similarly to the Congress of the United States. However, I am now going to show you a short video clip of a possible dinner and conversation that could have happened at the home of William Wilberforce, a Member of Parliament or MP (It’s important to note that Members of Parliament are referred to as m.p.’s throughout the movie.) While we watch it, I want you to focus on and answer these questions.

- What is the name of the African setting at the dinner table? Was he a former slave?
- What does the man put on the dinner table? What are they used for? Why did he show them to William?
- In the clip, there is conversation of making the world a better place. What did the people at the table want to happen that would make the world a better place?
- William Pitt, the man having a conversation outside with William Wilberforce, says that the slave traders have 300 M.P.’s in their pocket, and it would be Wilberforce against all of them. What does he mean by this statement?

2. **Play:** Start the clip at 25:50 and pause it at 30:26, right after the conversation between Pitt and Wilberforce is over.

3. **Follow Up:** Review the answers to the questions previously stated.

- What is the name of the African setting at the dinner table? Was he a former slave? – Answer *Equiano, and yes. Point out or see if anyone notices this is the same person who wrote the first hand account they heard on day 1*
- What does the man put on the dinner table? What are they used for? Why did he show them to William? Answer – *He puts chains/shackles on the table that were used for ensuring that slaves on the Middle Passage were subdued, as well as keeping them from jumping overboard. They were shown to William to convince him to speak out against slavery.*
- In the clip, there is conversation of making the world a better place. What did the people at the table want to happen that would make the world a better place? Answer – *The abolition of the slave trade.*

- William Pitt, the man having a conversation outside with William Wilberforce, says that the slave traders have 300 M.P.'s in their pocket, and it would be Wilberforce against all of them. What does he mean by this statement? Answer – *That 300 Members of Parliament were financially benefitting from the slave trade and would be very opposed to seeing it abolished.*

Video Clip 2 – Introducing the abolition of slave trade bill

1. **Say:** The clip we are about to watch is happening in Parliament. William Wilberforce has decided to act upon his feelings of the slave trade. While we watch it, I want you to focus on and answer the following questions.

- What were the immediate reactions of the Members of Parliament when they heard William Wilberforce speak up about the slave trade?
- William said that many of the members had interests (financial) in what three areas?
- The person who stood up after William, said that William's idea was going to do what to the nation?

2. **Play:** Play the video at 47:08 and pause it at 49:30

3. **Follow Up:** Review the answers to the questions previously stated.

- What were the immediate reactions of the Members of Parliament when they heard William Wilberforce speak up about the slave trade? Answer – *They were very upset and booed openly.*
- William said that many of the members had interests (financial) in what three areas? *West Indies, the plantations, and owned ships.*
- The person who stood up after William, said that William's idea was going to do what to the nation? Answer- *Destroy the nation*

4. **Say:** Explain what the man who said that William would destroy the country meant with his statement.

Answer- *Great Britain was making so much money through the plantations and the trade that it would go broke if it didn't have the slave trade to support the plantations.*

Video Clip 3- Another attempt at abolition of the slave trade

Say: It has been a year since William Wilberforce brought up the bill for abolishing slave trade the first time. This clip takes place once again in Parliament. While we watch it, I want you to focus on and answer the following questions

- The man who previously argued with William in Parliament is from where? Why is this important?
- What does this man say about the lives of the slaves in the West Indies? From what you have learned about slavery in this unit, do you think he was telling the truth?

- What did William Wilberforce use as evidence that there were people in England who wanted the slave trade abolished? How many ordinary people supported William?

Play: Start the clip at 1:00:50 and pause it at 1:04:41.

Follow up: Review the answers to the questions previously stated.

- The man who previously argued with William in Parliament is from where? Why is this important? Answer –*Liverpool, this is a major slave port city.*
- What does this man say about the lives of the slaves in the West Indies? From what you have learned about slavery in this unit, do you think he was telling the truth? Answer- *The slaves are doing well for themselves. They have small farms and a home and are doing better than many people living in Liverpool. No, he was lying to make his point.*
- What did William Wilberforce use as evidence that there were people in England who wanted the slave trade abolished? How many ordinary people supported William? Answer- *A petition, over 390,000 people.*

Video Clip 4- Cheating to win

Say: It has been over 5 years since William Wilberforce brought the petition into the Parliament. He has still not been able to get enough votes from the Members of Parliament to pass a law against the slave trade. The abolitionists are meeting again and discussing how to win. As we watch the following clip, focus on and answer the following questions.

- William Wilberforce tells William Pitt, the man playing golf, that he isn't going to bring an abolition bill before the Parliament this year. Has Wilberforce given up?
- Wilberforce wants to bring a bill before Parliament having to do with ships flying neutral flags not being protected by the law anymore. If this law passes, what does Wilberforce say will happen to the slave traders within two years?
- Is Wilberforce the person who brought the neutral flags bill up before the Parliament? If not, why would he choose not to be the one who reads the bill?

Play: Start the clip at 1:33:00 and pause it at 1:39:17

Follow Up: Review the answers to the questions

- William Wilberforce tells William Pitt, the man playing golf, that he isn't going to bring an abolition bill before the Parliament this year. Has Wilberforce given up? Answer- No
- Wilberforce wants to bring a bill before Parliament having to do with ships flying neutral flags not being protected by the law anymore. If this law passes, what does Wilberforce say will

happen to the slave traders within two years? Answer – Most of the slave traders will be bankrupt

- Is Wilberforce the person who brought the neutral flags bill up before the Parliament? If not, why would he choose not to be the one who reads the bill? *Answer- No, he didn't want anyone to realize the effect such a law would have on the slave trade. Because he was such an outspoken abolitionist, people would be suspicious if he brought up the bill.*

Say: William Wilberforce had brought up the bill abolishes the slave trade many times but continued to fail? Why do you think he failed?

Discuss as a class

Say: William Wilberforce was finally successful in bringing down the British slave trade by attacking it through another bill that opponents of abolishment didn't understand well enough to see the damage it would do to the slave trade.

Video Clip- Victory

Say: The clip we are about to watch is two years after the neutral flags bill was passed.

Pass out the song lyrics to amazing grace. Explain to them that this is a song that was written by a slave ship captain who later became a preacher and sought forgiveness for his part in the trade.

Play: Start the clip at 1:46:15 and pause at 1:53:28

Assessment: Answer in a paragraph the following questions. Was William Wilberforce successful in abolishing the slave trade? What challenges did he encounter, and why did he encounter so much opposition?