

“I Am Mother” starring Rose Byrne, Clara Rugaard, Hilary Swank, 2019, PG-13, 113 minutes

Major themes:

- AI
- Ethics
- Trust
- Family
- Motherhood
- Choice
- Control
- Lying
- Doubt
- Escape
- Value of human life

Major characters:

- Mother
- Daughter
- Woman

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

Background info:

- This film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on January 25th, 2019. Principal photography was completed in 2017 in Australia's Adelaide Studios.
- 13,867 days is equivalent to 37 years, 11 months, and 19 days.
- The "*Mother*" robot is a full-body suit built by Weta Workshop, a New Zealand props and effects company that rose to prominence after producing sets, costumes, armour, weapons, creatures, and miniatures for the Lord of the Rings trilogy. The company name comes from the weta, a species of flightless giant crickets native to New Zealand.
- Mother's eye seems to pay homage to HAL 9000 from the 1968 film, "*2001: A Space Odyssey*."
- Daughter watches part of an archived episode of "*The Tonight Show*" with Johnny Carson, Steve Martin, and Whoopi Goldberg.

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Scriptures:

Psalms 25:12 (NLT) – *“Who are those who fear the LORD? He will show them the path they should choose.”*

Joshua 24:15 (The Message) – *“If you decide that it’s a bad thing to worship God, then choose a god you’d rather serve—and do it today . . . As for me and my family, we’ll worship God.”*

Proverbs 30:1-3 (The Message) – *“The skeptic swore, ‘There is no God! No God! — I can do anything I want! I’m more animal than human; so-called human intelligence escapes me. I flunked ‘wisdom.’ I see no evidence of a holy God.’”*

Colossians 3:21 (The Message) – *“Parents, don’t come down too hard on your children or you’ll crush their spirits.”*

Hebrews 12:5-8 (NLT) – *“And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, ‘My child, don’t make light of the LORD’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.’ As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.”*

Proverbs 31:10 (The Message) – *“A good woman is hard to find, and worth far more than diamonds.”*

Galatians 6:7-9 (NLT) – *“Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”*

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Discussion points:

1. If someone believes that an event was going to occur anyway, is it ethical to cause the event to happen “*ahead of time*”? What examples come to mind?
2. Do the needs of the many count for more than the needs of an individual?
3. What do you think is significant about the fact that none of the characters we meet are ever given a name? What is significant about the fact that the named characters (whom we do not meet) are all given well-known Biblical names? [Jacob, Rachel, Simon]
4. What do you see as the purposes of Mother’s psychological testing?
5. How do you think Mother defined “*good parent*”? How does her definition differ from God’s? How does her definition differ from yours?
6. Consider who trained Mother. Consider the goal of Mother’s training. Is it possible for Mother to train up a child to be different from the ones who trained her?
7. Who has the right to decide which children are born and how they are raised?
8. Can anything good ever result from a lie?