Faith in Film | 26 November 2026 | English article

Rotimi Calls 'God With Us' One of His Most Important Works

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"In his neighborhood."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Actor, singer and executive producer Rotimi says the modern-day Nativity film God With Us is one of the most important projects of his career. In an interview with Blex Media correspondent Dot Saint-Fleur, published 24 November 2026, Rotimi - best known for his breakout role on Power - said he spent two years helping build the film from the ground up as executive producer, calling it "kingdom work." Playing a doubting character, he added, showed him how far his own faith has come.

The film began with a question from a 16-year-old boy. Director Jimmy Jenkins was preaching inside a juvenile detention facility when the teenager interrupted him.

God could not save people like them, the boy said. And then he asked Jenkins to teach the story of Jesus "in his neighborhood."

That boy never left Jenkins alone. Out of that moment grew God With Us, a Nativity retold in a contemporary inner-city setting - the Christmas story, told on streets the boy would recognise.

Rotimi plays Walter Moon, a man full of questions who is not sure where he stands with God. Aspen Kennedy plays Junie - Joseph - and Ashley Olivia Fisher plays Mary Anne Thomas, childhood sweethearts on a divine mission. Lil Rel Howery also stars.

At the premiere, Rotimi told Movieguide on 18 November what he felt the first time he heard the pitch.

"I heard the pitch on it and I said, my goodness, this is anointed."

Two years of work followed. Rotimi was not just in front of the camera. As executive producer, he helped shape the film from its earliest days, and the weight of that shows in the way he talks about it now.

This was not another acting job. It was, in his word, kingdom work.

God With Us Film: Rotimi On Faith, Doubt And Kingdom Work

The hardest part, Rotimi says, was keeping the film from feeling like a sermon. The team used humour and everyday questions instead, quoting scripture only when it served the story. A film that preaches at its audience loses the very people Jenkins set out to reach - the boy in the detention facility, and everyone like him.

There is one scene Rotimi keeps coming back to. A hospital-bed scene, he says, took him somewhere he had never been as an actor.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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