**The End of the Middle Ages**

In small groups discuss:

1. When looking at the Middle Ages what were the issues that drove the people of that day and age? (What happened that caused issues in your day-to-day life? – Think about Kingdom of Heaven, Crispin, Graphic Novels, and the game of Your Medieval life-

* Stress – unpredictable life
* Not enough money
* Illness of self/family – plague, flu, cold
* No freedom to leave, to not work, to make your own choices
* Broken alliances
* No power to change your world
* Total power for nobility and church
* Impact of the weather (too much rain, too little) affects crops and drought
* War between kingdoms – fear of death or slavery
* Work hard for little to no personal gain
* Malnutrition
* Debt – you then are "owned" by whomever lent you the money

1. We saw the fall of the Roman Empire and the turn to small communities. How did the stop of the flow of ideas affect the average person? What came out of this situation for the wealthy and for religious institutions?

* Isolation kept people on the land
* Isolation allowed the wealthy to control the laws and punishment
* Religion promoted commitment to the church and rulers and that you would go to heaven if you stayed loyal and hardworking
* Weapons were kept in the manor and people could not rise up or defend themselves.

1. What did the common people desire?

* They wanted the rulers to go back to where they had come from
* They wanted a say in the rule
* Laws that protected them from unfair situations
* To be able to improve their financial situation
* The ability to rise in society based on ability
* Emotional peace – religious and security/protection

1. How did the church and the nobility try to hold onto that power? How was being kept isolated advantageous? What did the ability to travel expose people to when they were able to see what was going on in the rest of the world?

* The ability to travel allowed people to see:
* New ways of life
* New ways of earning a living
* New ideas/exchange of ideas
* Ability to gather with people of the same way of thinking
* Exposure to new technology
* Hear about opportunity
* Able to make money from skills by moving place to place

1. What would you want to see happen, if you actually lived at that time? How could a person create a better life for them self?

People wanted:

* To over throw unfair rulers
* To have a say in the rules created
* To have a voice
* To have control over their own life and choices
* To pay less tax
* To have human rights – right to shelter, clothing, food, water, health care, education, protection, trial by peers (fair rule)