



# THE REMAINING

DISCUSSION GUIDE

—  
JOEL MAYWARD



# **SPOILER ALERT!**

**This may contain information related to the plot of  
THE REMAINING and is for use by group and  
individuals as a companion to the film after viewing it.**

# INTRODUCTION AND SYNOPSIS:

**THE REMAINING** is an action-packed supernatural thriller that addresses questions of life, love and belief against an apocalyptic backdrop. A group of close friends gather for a wedding, but the celebration is shattered by a series of cataclysmic events and enemies foretold by biblical end-times prophecies. The survivors face a horrifying, uncertain future as they scramble for safety, but as their world collapses around them in chaos and terror, will they choose real life through faith, or just try to survive?

## USING THE DISCUSSION GUIDE

As you use this guide to foster discussion about the themes and ideas presented in **THE REMAINING**, we encourage you to have an open mind and a spirit of humility. The characters caught in this apocalyptic nightmare must wrestle with deep personal convictions and beliefs, and find that their beliefs have direct consequences in their relationships with each other and God. There are different portions of the guide, including a Suggested Activity for movement and play, a series of Discussion Questions for having a conversation about the themes in the film, and some Deeper Questions for viewers who want to further examine particular scenes and theological ideas.

## AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

**THE REMAINING** is a thriller/horror film, and engaging with the film's content requires caution, wisdom and discernment as you mine the depths of what this film and the Bible have to offer.



# SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

**WALKING IN THE DARK.** This activity works best in a darkened home or building. Get into groups of three people and line up in a straight line, holding hands. The person in the direct middle of the line is then blindfolded. This person is led by their two partners through the house/building on a designated course; partners are allowed to talk and share about incoming obstacles or steps the blind person must take. Once the course is completed, the same blindfolded person must navigate the same course on their own, without holding the hands of their partners. Depending on time and group size, the group leader could have time trials between two teams, or have multiple groups attempt to navigate the course at once. This is a great discussion starter for feelings of fear, being alone, and the importance of being in community.

Ask the blindfolded person how they felt navigating the course with people, then alone.

Ask the people guiding the blind how they felt both in leading them, then having to watch as they navigated the dark alone.

# DISCUSSION GUIDE:

## QUESTION:

WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR GREATEST FEARS? WHY DO YOU THINK YOU HOLD THAT PARTICULAR FEAR? CAN YOU TRACE IT BACK TO AN EXPERIENCE OR MEMORY?

Have you ever been caught up in a sudden and unexpected storm? Depending on your climate, it could have been an earthquake, tornado, dust storm or hurricane.

In *THE REMAINING*, a group of beloved friends are gathered for the wedding of Dan and Skylar, only to find themselves in a storm of epic proportions. Millions of people appear to die in a single instant, collapsing with the empty stare of death in their eyes. Fire falls from the sky; huge blocks of hail rain from the heavens. Earthquakes shake the ground, and the world is thrown into chaos. The friends have no idea what is going on, making guesses that range from aliens to climate change to war to a simple, “I don’t know.”

## QUESTION:

IF YOU FOUND YOURSELF IN THE SAME “STORM,” WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD DO? WHERE WOULD YOU GO? HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE IT?

## **EACH CHARACTER IN THE FILM HAS A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON FAITH:**

**Skylar has attended church all her life and is familiar with the Bible (she even recognizes the apocalyptic events as the biblical end times), but she doesn't have true faith in God despite her parents' genuine belief.**

**Dan believes in science and reasoning; he becomes angrier with God as the apocalyptic events get worse.**

**Jack is a skeptic and remains that way until tragedy and the testimony of a loved one force him to reconsider his beliefs.**

**Allie is a seeker, searching for God in the chaos.**

**Tommy is unsure about it all—he only knows he wants to survive this ordeal and see his friends make it out okay, too.**

### **QUESTION:**

**WHICH CHARACTER IN THE REMAINING RESONATED WITH YOU THE MOST? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS? WHICH CHARACTER DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST LIKE YOU?**



**After Skylar is brutally attacked by a frightening creature, the friends find refuge in the church where Allie has been hiding. The pastor of the church, Shay, begins to explain the events based on the Book of Revelation:**

**The people who died from “Instant Death Syndrome” are the faithful who have been taken up in the rapture.**

**The loud sound at the beginning of the tribulation is the trumpet blast in Revelation 8:7, signaling the onset of fire and hail.**

**The creature that attacked Skylar was one of the “locusts” from Revelation 9:3-11, with stingers like scorpions, which are let loose to torture and torment the remaining people on earth.**

**When the friends wonder why a pastor wasn’t raptured with the rest, Pastor Shay explains that even though he is a pastor, he never truly believed: “Just because you have a church and a title doesn’t mean you have real faith.”**

**QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF PASTOR SHAY’S EXPLANATION? HOW CAN SOMEONE BE A PASTOR AND NOT HAVE TRUE FAITH IN GOD? WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF “REAL FAITH” IN GOD?**

The creatures grow in strength and boldness, eventually breaking into the church and forcing the survivors to hide in the basement. When the friends finally escape, they flee to a hospital in order to find medical help for Skylar, who is succumbing to her wounds from the creature.

In the hospital, each character's faith in God is tested as pain and death force them to consider their personal fate. Over and over, each of them realizes a profound truth: we all have to make a choice. Every person must choose for himself or herself whether or not to believe and trust in God. Regardless of church attendance, good morals, or involvement in ministry, a person's faith is a matter of the mind and heart.

**QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ABOUT GOD? WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ABOUT HEAVEN AND HELL? HOW DID YOU COME TO THOSE CONCLUSIONS?**



**While THE REMAINING is based on the frightening images found in the Book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible also gives us a beautiful picture of hope in the heavenly city of God:**

**Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Revelation 21:1-4, NIV)**

**For those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus, this is the beginning of an eternal story. In Scripture, believers are citizens of the Holy City, where there will be no more death or pain.**

**QUESTION: WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU THE MOST FROM THIS PASSAGE IN REVELATION 21? HOW DOES THIS COMPARE WITH THE EVENTS PORTRAYED IN THE REMAINING?**



**DEEPER  
QUESTIONS**



- How can our group (small group, family, youth group, etc.) be more faithful to Jesus in light of watching this movie? What themes and truths stand out for us?
- What does the “end times” mean to you? Do you know what you believe about the Book of Revelation and similar passages of Scripture?
- When Skylar is looking in the Bible, she cries out, “‘Rapture.’ It’s not in here!” It’s true; the word “rapture” never actually appears in Scripture. What do you think of the idea of the rapture? Why do you think Christians choose to believe there will be a rapture?
- What is the purpose of the Book of Revelation? Why do you think God included it in the Bible? If you’ve read it, what was your reaction to it? If you haven’t read it before, why not?
- The Bible instructs us that “the day and the hour” of Jesus’ return will remain unknown to us, regardless of our best guesses. Why do you think God doesn’t reveal the day and time? Why do we as humanity still insist on trying to figure out when the end is coming?
- What do you think of the horror genre in general? Do you think a scary movie is an appropriate way to explore biblical themes and content? Why or why not?

- Think about the pros and cons of the horror genre—what are some strengths and weaknesses? What are some criteria for Christians to decide whether or not to watch a horror movie?

- When people fixate on “the end times” in an unhealthy (i.e. unbiblical) way, what are some ways to respond?

- On the other hand, some people completely ignore books like Revelation and Daniel for their strange and sometimes intimidating or terrifying prophecies. What is a good response to someone who is ignoring the idea of “end times”?

- Matthew 24:42 says, “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come” (NIV). What do you think “keep watch” in this passage means? How can we “keep watch” as we wait for Jesus to return?

- Mark 8:35 says, “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it” (NIV). What does this mean for our daily lives when the apocalypse isn’t happening around us?

**SPOILER:** When Tommy realizes that the creatures seek out and destroy people who express faith in God—“They’re drawn to faith!”—he tries to save Jack, who is killed immediately after getting baptized. In the world of **THE REMAINING**, what do you think happens to people who die after the rapture?



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