

WE ARE THE ONES

A SHORT FILM BY PAUL HOPKINS

Faith Guide

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Faith Discussion Guide

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The following Faith Discussion Guide has been created for group discussion and personal reflection. The guide follows the program *We Are The Ones*. It elaborates on the training concepts and provides suggested readings. You can use this guide with your group and include your own thoughts and readings, or you can distribute this for self study.

From the Film:

We have been telling the people that this is the Eleventh Hour.

Now you must go back and tell the people that this is the Hour.

Thoughts For Discussion and Reflection:

The program begins with a message from the elders of the Hopi Nation, Oraibi, Arizona speaking to the concerns of their people and all people: How are we living in this time? How do our lives today impact the future? What legacy are we leaving for future generations?

Suggested Reading: Ecclesiastes 3 and 2 Corinthians 6:1 - 3

From the Film:

Where are you living?

Thoughts For Discussion and Reflection:

God created and continues to create a wonderful world. We have the opportunity to make choices about where we will live and the resources we use. For example, choosing to live miles from where you work creates a cycle of dependency on declining resources. Is how you are living enhancing this Creation or taking from it? How do your choices impact these resources and Creation?

Suggested Reading: Genesis 1 and 2

From the Film:

What are you doing?

Thoughts For Discussion and Reflection:

Take a look at your spiritual gifts. Soren Kirkegaard speaks to the fact that all of us are born “with a God shaped hole in our lives.” Is your life’s work a vocation or avocation? Do you work to live or live to work? What will you do with the free time that you have, to fill that spiritual hole and nurture your spirit?

Suggested Reading: Ephesians 4:11 – 16

From the Film:

What are your relationships?

Thoughts For Discussion and Reflection:

“What” sounds foreign to our ears. It might be easier to ask “who?” But in many ways it is important to consider the “what” of our relationships. We can easily name the family members, co-workers, and friends in our lives. But what do these people bring to our relationships? What is good? What builds up? What breaks down? Are we bringing our best selves to the relationship?

Suggested Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 31

From the Film:

Are you in the right relation?

Thoughts For Discussion and Reflection:

When a relationship; whether with family, friends or co-workers, is going well, all feels right with our world. When things sour, it impacts our entire life. Often times we continue the relationship because we feel we must. Reflect on how you can forgive, even when the other chooses not to be a part of the cycle of forgiveness. Consider how you can move forward to right relationships.

Suggested Reading: Matthew 18: 21 & 22

From the Film:

Know Your Garden.

Thoughts For Discussion and Reflection:

Is your garden the Garden of Eden or the Garden of Gethsemane? Does where you live and move bring you joy or despair? Reflect on the relationships/vocation/life choices you have made.

Suggested Reading: Matthew 26:36 - 39

From the Film:

Create Your Community.

Thoughts For Discussion and Reflection:

Creating a true community is no easy task. Sometimes the assumption in churches is that we will all get along just because we're the church - forgetting the many, many different worlds we come from and what we bring with us. The differences among us are overwhelming. What is it that brings these different people together every week? Is it to focus our reason for being? A desire to live out the servant ministry call of Christ?

Suggested Reading: Acts 2:41 - 47

From the Film:

Do Not Look Outside Yourself for a Leader.

Thoughts For Discussion and Reflection:

Love from the center of who you are. True and effective leaders know themselves. They know their strengths; know their weaknesses; know what brings them down and what lifts them up. When you are aware of your center, you can move outward. Like the ripples of a stone thrown in the pond the circles move outward. What do you do to strengthen your center? Where do you find nourishment for your soul? Where do you nurture the leadership to which you are called?

Suggested Reading: Romans 12:9 - 21

From the Film:

There is a river flowing now very fast.

Thoughts For Discussion and Reflection:

The river of change does indeed flow fast in our lives. We live in different times with different expectations. Will the change mobilize or immobilize us? As always, there are those for whom change is difficult and frightening. Think for a moment of the changes that have happened in just the past 10 years. In a sea of change – in rapidly flowing water of life today, where is your island center?

Suggested Reading: Psalm 2

From the Film:

Know that your river has its destination.

Thoughts For Discussion and Reflection:

To enter the river you have to feel equipped. Every good river outfitter will tell you to purchase the best equipment possible and train before you even go into the water. Know that you will experience the unexpected! Create scenarios in your head and think about how you will deal with them. Know that you will be called upon to make quick decisions – learn to think fluidly – to think creatively. Instead of falling back on the fear of the unknown and dwelling in the “I can’t do that,” practice thinking differently, until it becomes part of you. You CAN do this!

Suggested Reading: James 1:1 - 12

Closing thoughts:

The images we have seen in this film are stunning, showing the breath-taking beauty of Creation. But these scenes took time to create – the slow steady pulse of water that carves out a stream bed or a canyon. Even calm water makes an impact over time. But there also comes a time when we need to take action, as individuals or as an organization, we must move beyond just thinking and take action. Is this your eleventh hour?

When you have made that step, moved forward, don’t forget to pause, give thanks and celebrate!

Suggested Reading: Hebrews 12: 1 - 3

The Scripture passages for this study were taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible and The Message by Eugene Peterson.



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