

THE DEVIL

DISCUSSION GUIDE



Watch *The Devil* with your small group. Allow participants opportunity to share their thoughts on images or points that particularly stood out, things that intrigued or raised questions for them.



Read Revelation 12:7-9 and Genesis 3:1-15 out loud with your group. Allow time to consider the texts and reflect on the case presented in the film.



DISCUSS

1. Japanese manga artist Kouta Hirano once said, “Man cries, his tears dry up and run out. So he becomes a devil, reduced to a monster.” Many believe evil to be little more than the outworking of people’s free will, shaped by circumstance and motivated by self-preservation, greed or revenge. Conversely, goodness is born of a different life experience generating a different set of decisions and based on a different set of ethics whereby the feelings and rights of others are considered. If not here, where else might evil originate? What is your position? Is your view defensible? What evidence supports it?
2. Mathematician John Lennox makes much of the Biblical claim, “There is a personal malevolent being called the Devil, or Satan...who is involved at some level at least in originating the evil in this universe.” What do you make of this claim? How can we link evil events in the world with a particular person or being? According to Aleister Crowley, “*If one were to take the bible seriously one would go mad. But to take the bible seriously, one must be already mad.*” Is this position internally consistent given Crowley’s claim to be a follower of Satan?
3. Is there a real devil, and if there is, what part does he play in the affairs of this world? If Satan does exist, does his very existence in turn imply the existence of God? Are we truly caught up in some giant battle between good and evil, or is this dualism—however good a story—still *just* a story?
4. In the film *The Devil*, the following assertion is made: “In the Christian view, evil is not a permanent thing. It will be destroyed.” How could such an outcome be affected? What possible force could overcome evil? If the battle between good and evil is real, how does it end?



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