

MORAL MONSTER

DISCUSSION GUIDE



Watch *Moral Monster* 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 1 John 3:4-10 and Psalm 94 out loud with your group. Allow time to consider the texts and reflect on the case presented in the film.



1. Clifford Goldstein suggests the same God who created physical laws to govern the universe also created moral laws to guide its inhabitants. He also states there are absolute objective moral truths that are embedded in God's law. Do you agree with Goldstein's conclusions? Why? Why not? What evidence is there either way?
2. Biologist P.Z Myers says people who follow the commands of God are deferring their moral sense to a potentially untrustworthy external authority. Is morality simply a matter of following a written code? Why do people suffer from a guilty conscience when they do something bad? Where does this innate sense of right and wrong come from?
3. While not a believer in God, human rights barrister Geoffrey Robertson draws a distinction between the teachings of Jesus and the intolerable behaviour of paedophile Catholic priests and the religious institution that has protected them. Is such a distinction possible? Is God responsible for the evil done in his name? If He is a God of justice, why does He not intervene? What do evil acts perpetrated in God's name say more about— God's existence or the choices of the perpetrators?
4. Former President of the United States Ronald Reagan once said, "Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid." What do you think Reagan meant by this statement? What difference can ordinary people make when great events and great evil are at play in the world? Can you think of a time when an everyday person stood up and made a difference? Share it here:



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