

MIND OVER MATTER

DISCUSSION GUIDE



Watch *Mind Over Matter* 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 Genesis 2:7 and Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 out loud with your group. Allow time to consider the texts and reflect on the case presented in the film.



1. Both Bible verses in the READ section mention the “breath of life” or “spirit” as being the thing that imbues a physical body with life and consciousness. When, for whatever reason, the physical body dies, the breath or spirit returns to God who gave it. Is the spirit the same thing as a soul and what relationship do either of them have to consciousness? According to the Bible, what elements combine to make a living soul? Does the “returning to God” of the spirit of life prove our consciousness lives on after death?

2. Philosopher Peter Williams uses the age-old illustration of a broom, which over the years has had the handle replaced many times, and the head almost as often. He then asks the question, “Is it still the same broom?” Consider applying this principle to humankind. If identity is more than a physical body, what is it? What elements makes up human identity? In what ways are identity and consciousness the same thing? How are they different?

3. Is preserving consciousness only about putting the brain into a new “container”? Would you still be you in a new body, or has your body contributed to your sense of self? In what ways were Robert White’s transplant experiments different from the human body’s natural process of automatic renewal? How is ‘who you are’ different from ‘what you are’?

4. The Bible talks a lot about the resurrection of the dead, even going so far as calling Jesus the “first-fruits” of the ones who would later be raised from the dead as He was (1 Corinthians 15:20-21). Further 1 John 3:2 tells us when Jesus returns, we’ll recognise Him. Did Jesus have a physical body following His resurrection? How do you know? What kind of body do you think you will have following the resurrection? In what ways will your new body be the same or different to the one you have now?



WATCH AND LEARN MORE AT WAYMAKER.TV

