

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE REMAINING



AFTER THE RAPTURE,
THERE ARE FATES WORSE THAN DEATH.

THE REMAINING

CREW OVERVIEW

Casey La Scala (Director; Writer: screenplay)
Chris Dowling (Writer: story and screenplay)

CAST OVERVIEW

Alexa Vega (Skylar)
Shaun Sipos (Jack)
Johnny Pacar (Tommy)
Italia Ricci (Allison)
Bryan Dechart (Dan)
Liz E. Morgan (Sam)
John Pyper-Ferguson (Pastor Shay)
Kim Pacheco (Nurse Rachel)

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USING THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Intended for use after viewing the film, this study guide provides catalysts for biblically based discussion of various themes found in *The Remaining*. The guide features three themes from the movie and is structured in such a way that groups can choose to discuss the entire guide at once or can focus on one or two themes at a time.

FILM OVERVIEW/NOTE TO GROUP

Special Note to Group Leaders: The Remaining is a supernatural thriller film and, as such, contains sequences of violence and destruction to varying degrees. To determine if the Scenes to Review throughout the guide are suitable for your small group, we encourage you to preview the clips before presenting them to the group as a whole.

Inspired by biblical end times prophecy, *The Remaining* is an action-packed supernatural thriller that follows a group of close friends – Tommy (played by Johnny Pacar); Jack (Shaun Sipos); Dan (Bryan Dechart); Skylar (Alexa Vega); and Allison (Italia Ricci) – as they witness the rapture and fight to survive the aftermath of catastrophic events. In addition to the chaos, turmoil and destruction of the physical world, the friends wrestle with vital spiritual implications. Each must decide whether to continue merely to survive or choose genuine faith and real life.

The film opens with a montage of handheld camera footage showing the friends hanging out at the beach, riding bikes and bowling, laughing and partying. They are young, vibrant and living in the moment. The camera – manned by Tommy, a perpetual, if not obsessive, videographer –

then takes us to present time in the hours before Dan and Skylar’s wedding. Tommy captures standard fare: pre-wedding pep talks and platitudes, last-minute scurrying and fixing. What stands out amid the usual footage of decorations and dinner plates, though, is how often Tommy’s camera finds Allison, hinting at more than a crush for his longtime friend and Jack’s longtime girlfriend.

During the reception, pandemonium erupts.

A mass of people – including Skylar’s parents and a close friend – drop dead at the same time, but before any of the survivors can process the horrific scene, the earth is shaking, the building is collapsing, debris is falling and the view to the outside reveals further destruction: massive lightning, explosions, planes falling from the sky, shattered glass. As Tommy, Jack, Dan and Skylar flee, they evade damaging hail that was triggered at the sound of an ear-piercing trumpet. Based on years of church attendance and a passing familiarity with the Bible and its content, Skylar pieces together that they have witnessed the rapture. The others are skeptical.

They make their way to a library and, to prove her point, Skylar finds a Bible, reading passages from Revelation that





THEME ONE: AUTHENTICITY

Guiding Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT):
Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine.
Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ
is among you; if not, you have failed the test of
genuine faith.

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- Genesis 15:6 (NLT): And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.
- Psalm 27:14 (NIV): Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.
- Matthew 24:42 (NIV): Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your LORD will come.
- John 3:16 (NLT): For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
- Romans 10:9 (NIV): If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is LORD," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV): For we live by faith, not by sight.
- 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT): Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:8 (NLT): But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.
- 1 Timothy 1:19 (NLT): Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.
- Hebrews 11:1–3 (NIV): Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

perfectly describe the apocalyptic events. While there, a teenager named Sam (Liz E. Morgan) attaches herself to the group and sets off with them as they head toward a local church in hopes of finding Allison, who has been missing since the reception. On the way, Skylar clutches the Bible and utters an earnest prayer; suddenly, she is attacked by an as-yet-unseen entity that lifts her off the ground, pierces her, and brutally throws her back down.

At the church, the friends reunite with Allison, but injured Skylar needs medical attention and is given over to the care of Nurse Rachel (Kim Pacheco). Pastor Shay (John Pyper-Ferguson) confirms Skylar's assessment: the rapture occurred and has ushered in a period of tribulation. News and footage pour in from around the globe addressing the pandemic of Instant Death Syndrome as well as epic, wide-scale destruction. With nothing to do but wait, worry and evaluate their lives, the survivors engage in deep, soul-searching conversation – during a series of confessions, Tommy accuses Jack of not appreciating Allison and confesses his own love for her; Dan admits to having cheated on Skylar and regrets not telling her before the wedding; and Tommy and Pastor Shay have multiple conversations about missed opportunities and real faith.

The church comes under attack, and Nurse Rachel and Pastor Shay are killed by the "fallen," demonic creatures that seek to destroy the Word of God and its followers. Skylar worsens, so her friends take her to a ransacked hospital, desperate to find something that might help. At the hospital, Skylar confesses real faith in God and passes away. Dan screams at God, begging for answers, but quickly falls silent and is killed. Allison has Sam record her confession and is killed. Reeling from the deaths of their loved ones, Jack, Tommy and Sam head to a makeshift relief center. There, Sam shares Allison's confession in which she tells her friends that there isn't much time left and that she chooses God. As the fallen are unleashed from the skies, Jack and Sam make their choices for faith. The film ends as Tommy is attacked and his camera cuts out.



- Hebrews 11:6 (NLT): And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.
- James 2:19–20 (NLT): You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?
- 1 Peter 1:9 (NLT): The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.
- 1 John 5:4–5 (NLT): For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

SCENES TO REVIEW

- Rapture (00:10:57–00:19:08, Chapter 3)
- An Earnest Prayer (00:20:26–00:23:58, Chapter 5)
- Real Faith (00:26:35–00:31:50, Chapter 6)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

As you begin this theme discussion, take a moment to think about the profound truth of Romans 10:9: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is LORD,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (NIV). This verse points to one of the most – if not *the* most – prominent themes in *The Remaining*, that of authenticity. Repeatedly and compellingly, the film examines the questions: What is real, genuine faith? And why is it absolutely vital?

The vehicle through which authentic faith is explored is biblical end times prophecy, beginning with the rapture during Dan and Skylar's wedding reception. In a split second, the course of humanity is forever altered as believers' souls are taken while unbelievers remain to face the aftermath and coming tribulation. In the chaos immediately following the rapture, Tommy, Jack, Dan and Skylar scramble for safety while trying to make sense of such cataclysmic events. Aliens? Skylar, having been raised in the church, realizes that they're experiencing the biblical end of the world. And this realization forces her to scrutinize the authenticity of her faith.

SCENE TO REVIEW

Rapture (00:10:57–00:19:08, Chapter 3)

- What is your reaction to this interpretation of the rapture? In what ways does this scene present a stark contrast between those with authentic faith and those without?
- What does this depiction of the rapture (and the ensuing destruction) suggest about the frailty of earthly existence? Why is it important to have faith that looks toward eternity?
- In the library, Skylar says, "I shouldn't be here. I went to church. I did everything right!" Why is Skylar one of the remaining? Why wasn't she taken with the believers?

- How does Skylar's interpretation of faith serve as a cautionary tale for those who "go through the motions," but who don't know Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior?

Read Matthew 24:42; 2 Corinthians 13:5; and James 2:19–20 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- What does Jesus say in Matthew 24:42 about His return? How do the unknown aspects of the Second Coming challenge us to make sure we are living with authenticity?
- What do 2 Corinthians 13:5 and James 2:19–20 say about real faith? How do these passages encourage and challenge you to make sure your faith is genuine?

At the library, the friends decide to try and find Allison, so they set out for a local church she's recently started attending. On the way, as Skylar witnesses the death, destruction and desolation that surrounds them, she prays in earnest. She asks God to protect them and she apologizes for her previous unbelief. Instantaneously, her faith seems to grow and deepen, and she is soon attacked by a predatory creature whose aim is to locate and destroy any expression of true faith.





SCENE TO REVIEW

An Earnest Prayer (00:20:26–00:23:58, Chapter 5)

- Describe the setting of this scene. Recall as many details as you can. How would you feel if you were walking alongside this group on its way to find Allison at the church?
- Notice that Skylar is the only person who thinks to pray. What does her decision to call on God suggest about her understanding of faith in light of the rapture?
- Why do physical threats often have a way of forcing us to think about spiritual matters? How does a life-threatening circumstance have a way of making things very real?
- Have you ever experienced spiritual growth due to an extenuating circumstance? If so, what happened? In what ways was your faith deepened amid the difficulty you faced?
- What happens to the Bible at the end of the scene? Why is it significant and what does it say about the gravity of the altercation between the creature and Skylar's newfound faith?

Read Psalm 27:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:8; and 1 Timothy 1:19 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How do Psalm 27:14 and 1 Timothy 1:19 offer instruction and encouragement for placing our hope and trust in the LORD? What stands out to you the most in either of these verses?
- How is 1 Thessalonians 5:8 applicable to this scene in particular and the film as a whole, especially the phrase, "protected by the armor of faith and love"?

While seeking refuge in the church, the survivors meet Pastor Shay, who has been humbled by the rapture: "Why wasn't I taken? Just because you have a church and a title – that doesn't mean that you have real faith. I had no relationship; I just had comfort. And that is how I failed." Tommy and Shay share a series of discussions, the former watching the latter arrive at fresh realizations about God as well as a new and profound understanding of authenticity.

SCENE TO REVIEW

Real Faith (00:26:35–00:31:50, Chapter 6)

After telling a skeptical Tommy that the biblical rapture has occurred, Shay says, "We are all presented with the same evidence. I guess it's what conclusion you wish to draw from it."

- Even after witnessing "Sudden Death Syndrome" and an ongoing series of apocalyptic events, Tommy still refuses to believe that the Bible holds the truth. Why?
- What similarities do the characters of Shay and Skylar share in terms of their understanding of the Bible and faith? Can you think of any differences?
- Shay tells Tommy that the stillborn baby is experiencing the bliss of eternal life. Why is it difficult for us to understand or appreciate an eternal life beyond this earthly existence?
- How do Shay's words – "I had no relationship; I just had comfort" – relate to the theme of authenticity? Explain what you think he means when he says he "just had comfort."

Read 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1–3, 6; and 1 John 5:4–5 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- What do 2 Corinthians 5:7 and Hebrews 11:1–3, 6 say about faith? Why are these verses important in shaping spiritual growth, specifically authenticity and real faith?
- 1 John 5:4–5 says that we achieve the victory of defeating this evil world through faith. Based on what you know of Jesus Christ and the Bible, explain why faith is powerful.

As you finish this theme discussion, read Genesis 15:6; John 3:16; and 1 Peter 1:9 (see Scriptures Referenced), and consider how these verses relate to the theme of authenticity. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, are there any areas of your life that could use a dose of transparency in order for your faith to grow and flourish in a real way? If you do not believe in Jesus Christ, what hindrances prevent you from accepting Him and beginning your own faith journey? Wherever you stand today, consider what living a life of authenticity means to you.



THEME TWO: COURAGE

Guiding Scripture: John 16:33 (NIV): “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- Joshua 1:9 (NLT): “This is my command – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”
- Proverbs 13:9 (NIV): The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out.
- Proverbs 28:1 (NIV): The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.
- Matthew 7:21–23 (NIV): “Not everyone who says to me, ‘LORD, LORD,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘LORD, LORD, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”
- John 16:33 (NIV): “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
- Romans 8:18 (NIV): I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.
- Romans 8:31–32 (NIV): What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?
- 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NIV): Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.
- Ephesians 6:10–12 (NLT): A final word: Be strong in the LORD and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against

flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

- Philippians 1:28 (NLT): Don’t be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself.
- Philippians 4:13 (NLT): For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
- James 1:3 (NLT): For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT): For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.
- 1 Peter 1:7 (NLT): These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold – though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

SCENES TO REVIEW

- The Fallen (00:39:20–00:41:19, Chapter 8)
- Tommy’s Message (00:33:11–00:34:57, Chapter 7)
- Confessions (00:46:28–00:49:55, Chapter 10)
- Pastor Shay’s Legacy (00:53:40–00:57:57, Chapter 11)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

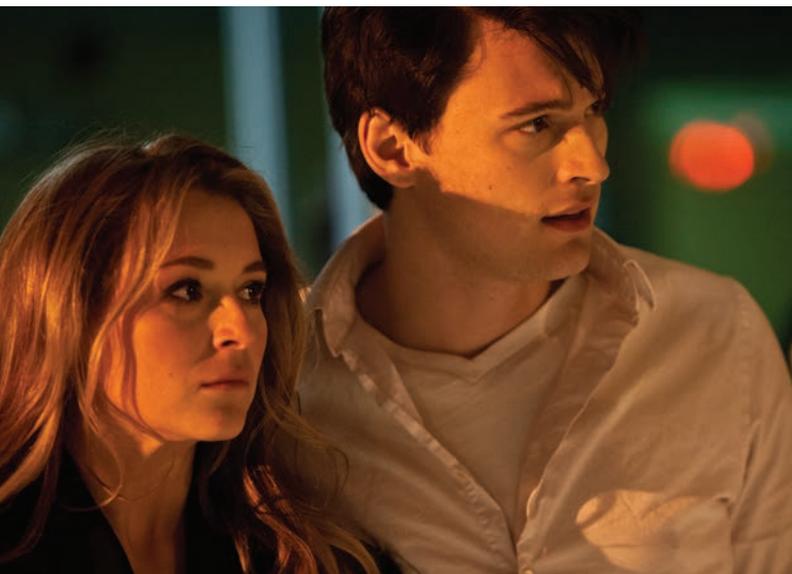
In beginning this theme discussion, take a look at Jesus’ words in John 16:33, which is also the Guiding Scripture for this section: “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (NLT). These words from the LORD Himself serve as an encouragement to the faithful to find strength in Him; He is greater than any adversary, difficulty or obstacle. This promise holds true in *The Remaining*, too, as survivors face unspeakable terror and search for hope in a desolate world.

Despite the temporary solace and refuge the church offers, it becomes clear that post-rapture events and conditions are worsening and will continue to worsen. Tommy realizes he’s captured footage of the creature that attacked Skylar, and when he shows the image to a few people, Pastor Shay identifies the creature as one of the “fallen,” a being whose purpose is to torture and destroy. Acknowledging the grim reality, Shay says things are only going to get worse. Though his words contain terror and foreboding, they also represent an opportunity to be courageous.

SCENE TO REVIEW

The Fallen (00:39:20–00:41:19, Chapter 8)

- What kinds of feelings does this scene elicit from you? How does your reaction compare to the characters’ reactions as Shay describes what the horrific creature is and wants?
- Shay warns, “This is the first season of bad things to come.” Even though his assessment is terrifying, how



does it offer a chance for courage to shine brightly?

- Apply the same principle to your own life. How do difficult, scary or intimidating circumstances give us an opportunity to be courageous in the LORD?
- What are some ways that we can practice being courageous to prepare for the seasons of life that require boldness of faith and strength of character?

Read Joshua 1:9; Ephesians 6:10–12; and Philippians 1:28 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- What does Joshua 1:9 say about being courageous? According to this verse, which states being “strong and courageous” as a command, what does God promise?
- Ephesians 6:10–12 and Philippians 1:28 both address the subject of enemies. What do the verses say about foes, and how do these verses serve to promote courage?

One of the ways that courage is manifested in the film is through the act of confession. In the previous theme (Authenticity), Skylar confesses in the biblical sense, acknowledging her shortcomings and asking for God’s forgiveness. Through faith, she finds the courage to do so. In the following scenes, Tommy and Dan offer confessions of a slightly different nature, as the end of the world forces them to view their remaining time in a new way. Do they want to finish weakly, harboring secrets? Or would they rather face the end with honesty, embracing courage?

SCENES TO REVIEW

Tommy’s Message (00:33:11–00:34:57, Chapter 7)

Confessions (00:46:28–00:49:55, Chapter 10)

- Tommy tells Jack, “It takes losing [Allison] to feel something?” Do you agree or disagree? Can you relate to having lost (or almost lost) something to appreciate it?
- Compare and contrast the ways that the characters’ relationships are a small-scale representation of the apocalypse. What do you think of this metaphor?

Dan is racked with guilt over his infidelity. When he shares his confession, Allison says, “It doesn’t matter now,” to which Dan replies, “Everything matters now. Don’t you see that?”

- Why does Dan confess? Why do you think he now has the courage to expose his deepest secret when he had previously kept it hidden? What is the spiritual application?
- Why does confession take courage? What does it force us to acknowledge about our shortcomings? How does God’s grace (and mercy) meet us in our repentance?

Read Proverbs 13:9; 2 Timothy 1:7; and 1 Peter 1:7 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- The first part of Proverbs 13:9 says, “The light of the righteous shines brightly.” What does this mean? How does courage relate to righteousness and help us to shine brightly?
- 2 Timothy 1:7 and 1 Peter 1:7 address how God has equipped us to deal with trials and why suffering leads to spiritual growth. Knowing this, why is courage important?

As the post-rapture world continues to crumble, Pastor Shay discovers the Truth. He realizes his own failures as a pastor and as a self-proclaimed “fraud” in the Christian faith.

The rapture prompts a journey for Shay, from frustration to awareness to humility to freedom to courage. In what would be both his first and final sermon as a “real” pastor, Shay delivers a stunning message in which he publicly acknowledges his charlatan behavior, confesses newfound faith and encourages the congregation to take courage in the face of the destruction and death to come.

SCENE TO REVIEW

Pastor Shay’s Legacy (00:53:40–00:57:57, Chapter 11)

- Based on what you know of Shay, trace his transformation through the film. How has he handled the chaos of the post-rapture world differently than many other characters?
- How has Shay been humbled by the rapture? How does he then find the courage to pursue faith in God amid his failures as a pastor?

Shay says, “The path before us will not be easy. It will not go unchallenged. And this path will lead to pain and suffering, even death. But real life, eternal life, is where the path leads. But this is our opportunity. I can now show you the way. We can share this journey together.”

- What do you think of Shay’s message and its candor? Why does he preach with increasing urgency? What part of his sermon stands out to you the most?
- How does Shay’s sermon reflect the message of the Bible and the life of a Christian? Talk about the two sides of the coin, so to speak – the suffering and the glory.



- Why does being a Christian take courage? At the end of Shay's message, he mentions sharing the journey together. How does community promote courage and steadfastness?
- In the basement, what does Shay say to the group? Why is he unafraid to open the door despite impending death? How does his sacrifice serve as a testament to courage?

Read Proverbs 28:1; Matthew 7:21–23; and Romans 8:18 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- Shay references Matthew 7:21–23 in his sermon. What are your thoughts on this passage? How does courage help bridge the gap between unbelief and belief?
- How do Proverbs 28:1 and Romans 8:18 relate to Shay's message? How do these verses speak to the decisions and circumstances that you currently face?

In concluding this discussion of courage, read Romans 8:31–32; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Philippians 4:13; and James 1:3 (see Scriptures Referenced). Take time to think about what these verses say about courage in relation to the Christian faith. Consider, too, what these verses mean for your life and your walk with the LORD. We haven't experienced the rapture yet, but Jesus Christ will return one day. While we wait for Him, will we live as though we have no hope? Will we dismiss opportunities to grow in the wisdom and the knowledge of God? Or will we choose to live courageously, sharing His love and eagerly anticipating His glorious return?

THEME THREE: REDEMPTION

Guiding Scripture: Lamentations 3:23 (NIV): Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- Psalm 107:2 (NLT): Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.
- Isaiah 43:18–19 (NIV): "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."
- Lamentations 3:23 (NIV): Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
- Luke 9:23 (NLT): Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me."

- John 17:3 (NIV): "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."
- Romans 6:11 (NLT): So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.
- Romans 8:38–39 (NIV): For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD.
- Romans 10:11–13 (NLT): As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same LORD, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."
- Romans 12:1–2 (NIV): Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- Galatians 2:20 (NIV): I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- Ephesians 2:8–9 (NLT): God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.
- Colossians 1:20–22 (NLT): And through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.





- Hebrews 12:1–3 (NIV): Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.
- 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV): The LORD is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

SCENES TO REVIEW

- First Real Prayer (00:52:23–00:53:39, Chapter 11)
- The Hospital (01:08:18–01:10:51, Chapter 14)
- Not Sit-in-the-Pew People (00:37:05–00:38:25, Chapter 8)
- The Choice (01:16:19–01:23:37, Chapter 16)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lamentations 3:23 says, “Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (NIV). What a beautiful reminder that God offers second chances as He pursues us and leads us through the process of redemption. Without His great mercy, we would have no hope. Yet, He made a way to overcome our sinfulness and brokenness, inviting us into relationship with Him and granting blessed redemption when we accept.

Throughout the film, people are presented with a choice. Will they choose mere survival, or will they choose real life with God? Pastor Shay chooses God, and during a brief discussion with Tommy, the pastor looks completely at peace with the decision he’s made. For the first time ever, Shay prays sincerely. And for the first time in his life, Shay understands salvation and eternal life; if not for the rapture and subsequent chaos, Shay might not have known redemption.

SCENE TO REVIEW

First Real Prayer (00:52:23–00:53:39, Chapter 11)

When Tommy walks in, Shay looks up and says, “You know that was the first real prayer I ever said? Do you have any idea how powerful it feels?”

- How does Shay’s statement reflect both the regret and the joy he feels? What are we missing when we choose to live apart from God?
- Shay says, “It’s not too late for us to believe, Tommy. God still loves us all.” What does this comment suggest about redemption and God’s desire that all might know Him?

A bit later in the scene, Shay adds, “The rapture is over. We missed that boat. But we have hope in the path to the Father and His gift of eternal life. You have to make a choice, Tommy.”

- Generally speaking, how are choice and redemption connected? What are some reasons why people choose not to experience the gift of redemption?
- How about you? Can you think of times when you a) chose to reject redemption and b) chose to accept redemption? What happened in both cases?

Read Psalm 107:2; Isaiah 43:18–19; and Romans 8:38–39 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How does Psalm 107:2 speak to the importance of redemption? Why does the verse instruct us to “speak out” and tell others about God’s redemption in our lives?
- What do Isaiah 43:18–19 and Romans 8:38–39 say about the things that threaten to separate us from God? How do God’s love and redemption save us?

As Skylar lies on her deathbed, she shares a tender moment with Dan, forgiving him for his past indiscretion (after overhearing his confession back at the church) and embracing redemption in God. Skylar’s is a fascinating faith journey. She begins as a “good person” who goes through the motions of being a believer. Then, after uttering a heartfelt prayer, she is attacked by one of the fallen. What follows is a steady physical decline while her faith grows ever stronger, culminating in her ultimate redemption as she takes her final earthly breath.

SCENE TO REVIEW

The Hospital (01:08:18–01:10:51, Chapter 14)

- How does Skylar’s forgiveness extend a form of redemption to Dan? What does that say about the nature of redemption and its ability to multiply exponentially?
- Why does the process of redemption force us to examine our shortcomings? (E.g., in Skylar’s case, she thinks about growing up in the church and not really believing.)
- So many deaths in the film are sudden. Skylar’s, though, is the result of a longer struggle with the injury inflicted by the creature. Why do you think that is?

Skylar says she grew up in a culture where people “looked at you funny” if you didn’t attend church. To avoid that kind of judgment, Skylar dutifully lived up to expectations.

- Can you relate to Skylar’s experience? Have you ever felt pressure to act like a believer when, in fact, you didn’t believe? How does that hinder redemption?

Read John 17:3; Romans 6:11; and Ephesians 2:8–9 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- John 17:3 and Romans 6:11 talk about life in Jesus Christ. What do these verses say about the new life – the redemption – we have in Christ?
- According to Ephesians 2:8–9, can we earn redemption or salvation? Why or why not? What other verses in the Bible help provide a definitive answer to this question?

In *The Remaining*, the rapture presents a vital second chance for those whose souls were not taken up with the LORD. Essentially, this is the only second chance that matters. As the film progresses, several people choose God and then meet with a horrific physical death. Though the thought of such torture would seem like a deterrent for aligning with God, the reality is that physical death represents the beginning of an eternal life beyond understanding or measure. Those who choose God also choose to believe in the promises of salvation and redemption.

SCENES TO REVIEW

Not Sit-in-the-Pew People (00:37:05–00:38:25, Chapter 8)

The Choice (01:16:19–01:23:37, Chapter 16)



- How do these two scenes back-to-back shed light on Tommy’s and Sam’s journeys? Do they find redemption in the end? What evidence from the film supports your answer?
- How do Allison’s testimony and witness help the others make a decision about God? Read Hebrews 12:1–3 (see Scriptures Referenced); why is it relevant to these scenes?
- The message that Allison records for Jack and Tommy is timeless. Why is her testimony relevant just as much today in our real world as it is in the world of *The Remaining*?
- Does the end of the film (the last Scene to Review) make you think about faith, salvation or redemption in a new or different way? Why or why not?
- What is your story of redemption? How has God been faithful to show you kindness and redemption? How have you experienced second chances in your life?

Read Luke 9:23; Romans 12:1–2; and Galatians 2:20 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How does each of these verses correspond to the scenes you just watched? Which characters in the film decide to take up their crosses and find life in Christ?
- What do these verses mean to you? What is their practical application in your life and in your faith journey? How might they encourage us to find redemption in God?

Take a moment to read Romans 10:11–13; Colossians 1:20–22; 2 Peter 3:9; and revisit Lamentations 3:23, which is the Guiding Scripture for this theme. Be encouraged to invest thought and prayer in these verses that so beautifully share of God’s love. At the root of redemption – at the root of everything, truly – is His good and perfect love. How will you respond to such a deep and abiding love? Will you choose salvation and faith? Perhaps you already have. If so, take time to pray and thank the LORD for his gift of redemption.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- How does the interpretation of biblical end times as found in *The Remaining* align with what you believe to be true about the end of the world? (Note: Eschatology is a broad area of study with many interpretations; there will likely be varying opinions on the matter. Use these differences to foster discussion in a healthy and respectful way.)
- What kind of mood or tone does the film convey? Is it appropriate to the subject matter? Why or why not? What would your interpretation of biblical end times look and feel like?
- What aspect of the film most impacted you? Why?
- Which character could you relate to the most? Why?
- What additional themes do you see in the film? Can you point to specific scenes or lines of dialogue that support your answer?



"EQUAL PARTS DISASTER FILM AND END-OF-THE-WORLD SUPERNATURAL THRILLER..."

— Eric Shirey, *Moviepilot*



SPECIAL FEATURES

- Divine Revelations: Making *The Remaining*
- Deleted Scene

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?



ON BLU-RAY™ AND DVD

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