Discussion and Reflection Guide
for The Passion of The Christ

by Dan R. Dick

The Passion of The Christ is a powerful, sensational, and provocative visual experience, presenting Mel Gibson's vision of the final hours of Jesus the Christ. Gibson claims that he wants people to feel the story. He offers a graphic, gut-wrenching, and emotionally evocative movie. Small groups and individuals will greatly benefit from reflection and discussion of this moving film. In larger settings, it is recommended to have table groups of 3 to 5 people discuss the questions and share highlights with the larger group.

1. Gibson offers his own, deeply personal, vision of what the final hours might have looked like in Jesus' life. How does the movie's image align with your own? Where is the vision different from your own?
2. What are your expectations of a film about Jesus Christ? In what ways does this film meet your expectations? Where does it fail to meet your expectations?
3. Why, do you think, did Mel Gibson want to use Latin and Aramaic instead of English in the film? What is gained? What is lost?
4. What are the most inspiring images for you in The Passion of The Christ?
5. Where do you find messages and images of comfort in this movie?
6. What about the film makes you uncomfortable? Why?
7. What do you find most challenging about the film?
8. Why do you believe Gibson and co-writer Benedict Fitzgerald introduce Satan into the final hours as a recurrent character?
9. What do you suspect the writers and producers are attempting to communicate through the use of brutality, derision, mockery, inhumanity, cruelty, and injustice where Jesus is concerned? Do the creators overdo it? Do you think the Roman soldiers truly took joy in torturing prisoners?
10. If you were watching this film with non-Christians or people who have a very limited understanding of the gospel story, what would you want to say to them?
11. Where do you believe "poetic or artistic license" has been taken with the film? What do you think or feel about taking such license?
12. What questions does this film raise for you?
13. Will this movie have an impact on decisions or actions for your life? If so, in what way?
14. What relationship does this movie have to Christian faith or spiritual formation?

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