



1917 (15)

Watch the whole film together or concentrate on the clip:
00:42:00 to 00:52:47

SYNOPSIS

April 1917, the Western Front. Two British soldiers (Blake and Schofield) are sent to deliver an urgent message to an isolated regiment. If the message is not received in time, the regiment will walk into a trap and be massacred. To get to the regiment they will need to cross through enemy territory. Time is of the essence and the journey will be fraught with danger.

Winner of seven BAFTAs and three Oscars, *1917* is a tale of bravery and sacrifice, and is one that will shock, inspire and bring forth the tears in equal measure. As we are now operating in a time where many groups are happening remotely, this is a good film to suggest that your group watch before the session, or it is one that you could introduce in this session and get your group to watch it afterwards.

DISCUSS

Begin by holding a discussion about the First World War. Have the young people in your group studied it at school? You may find that you need to give some context and a brief historical overview of the war to your group.

This clip is a particularly harrowing moment that asks the audience to reconsider what it means to be humane and look after one another during battle. In this scene, Blake and Schofield have sought refuge in an abandoned farm after escaping enemy territory. After witnessing an airplane dogfight, the enemy aircraft crashes right in front of them. Schofield is keen to put the German pilot out of his misery and kill him, while Blake wants to provide him with water and care for him. When Schofield returns to Blake and the pilot, he discovers that Blake has been stabbed despite trying to help the enemy. Schofield desperately tries to save his friend, but it becomes clear that Blake is dying. Blake dies in Schofield's arms and leaves him to complete the mission alone.

After showing the clip, chat about these questions:

- How did they feel watching the clip? Does the scene glorify war or do something else?
- Was Blake naïve to want to help the enemy soldier out?
- Would it have been possible to go through an ordeal such as the First World War and still be a 'good' person at the end of it?
- How do you think Schofield is feeling at the end of the clip?

DISCUSS

War is complex issue in the Bible, and it is often rather easy to pick passages from the Old Testament that glorify war or suggest that God is in favour of it. Rather than that, read Micah 4:1-5 and focus on the prophet looking forward to a time when God's rule is established. After reading the passage, discuss the following questions:

- What do you think this passage is suggesting in relation to war?
- Do you think that verse 3 is suggesting that God's ideal is pacifism (you may need to define this word)?
- Is it idealistic to suggest that we should be against war? Is war sometimes necessary?
- Does God have a favourite side when it comes to warfare?

1917 is available on Amazon Prime.

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