

Hacksaw Ridge discussion guide

Discussion for a movie night: Enjoy the film. Afterwards, here are some discussion questions that might help you to engage with others on the topics from the film.

Enjoy the time engaging with the film, your faith and friends.

Synopsis

In our jaded world, we continue to search for heroes and when we hear of true heroism from ordinary people, it begs our attention. The soldiers of World War Two continue to provide rich fields of courage under fire and none quite compare to the story of Desmond Doss (*Andrew Garfield*).

Growing up in Virginia during the depression era moulded Desmond's very existence. Through his relationship with his father and brother, the young Virginian learnt to defend himself, through the love of his mother he grew to know the importance of family and through his faith as a Seventh Day Adventist, this young man developed a sanctity of life. Desmond's father being a veteran of World War One and still suffering from the memories associated with its horrors caused continual turmoil in the Doss household. Tom Doss (Hugo Weaving) opposed the second World War, but his sons still chose to enlist despite his opposition.

In the process of enlisting, Desmond made a choice to be a military medic, thinking that this would allow him to live as a conscientious objector, not be required to hold a weapon and still serve his country. This naive view ultimately leads him through great trials within the Army itself and his platoon. Even through the threat of a court marshal and regular physical abuse, Desmond perseveres and was allowed to serve in the South Pacific conflict. *Hacksaw Ridge* continues his journey as a medic on the island of Okinawa and the heroic acts that led to his eventual winning of the Congressional Medal of Honour.

Discussion points

1. Desmond Doss epitomises those people who take a stand for faith. Is there anything that you would be willing to stand for like this soldier?
2. *Hacksaw Ridge* is less a story of taking a stand on killing, as it is on standing up for what you believe. The challenge to all who attend this film will be to think of what would you be willing to take a stand on and what it is based in. Where do you base your convictions?

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 1 Peter 2:19-21

3. This is not a film for those with sensitive dispositions, because the depictions of war. Who would you recommend this film to in your circles of influence?



"I don't know how I'm going to live with myself if I don't stay true to what I believe." Desmond Doss (*Played by Andrew Garfield*)