

## Discussion Guide

### Film: Midnight Special



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.



## Film Synopsis

Two men and a young boy are on the run in the dead of night. Sneaking out of a motel room, they climb into a nondescript car and drive away. To avoid being spotted by the police, they turn off the headlights, the driver donning night-vision goggles so he can see the road in the darkness. The boy in the back seat is wearing goggles too – for a very different reason. He is Alton Meyer (Jaeden Lieberher), an eight-year-old possessed of mysterious powers which mean that he must be kept out of daylight. One of the men, Roy (Michael Shannon), is Alton's father; the other, Lucas (Joel Edgerton), Roy's childhood friend. Having kidnapped Alton from a cult which sees his abilities as messianic, they are on their way to rendezvous with Alton's mother, Sarah (Kirsten Dunst). Roy, Lucas and Sarah believe that they are taking Alton to meet his destiny. But other people, with other ideas, are in pursuit.



## Discussion points for Reel Dialogue

1. How much did you know about *Midnight Special* when you went into the cinema? What kind of film were you expecting it to be, and did it meet or upend your expectations?

What other films did it remind you of? Would you call *Midnight Special* a science fiction film? What kind of story is it interested in telling, and what kind of answers is it interested in giving?

How did you feel about the way in which the film ended? Were we given enough answers – or not enough, or too many?

Where do we leave each of the main characters, and what do you imagine might happen to them now? How did you react to Roy, and his relationship with Alton?

What clues are we given about Roy's past and his view of the world?

What kind of father is he? What reflections does *Midnight Special* offer on the emotional experience of being a parent?

How universal are the emotions that Roy and Sarah go through as Alton's parents? What does the presence of Lucas, an outsider to the family, add to the story?