



GOD IN FILM

STUDY GUIDES



Producer



Director



Reviewer

EX MACHINA

There is nothing more human than the will to survive

But the one who endures to the end will be saved. - Matthew 24:18

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God in Film study guides combine your two favourite things, God and movies. Upskill yourself for group discussions that explores deep themes. Learn to be the Producer, Director and Reviewer of your own film discussion group.



PRODUCER

Prep for the discussion

How can you make the most use of your time?

- Watch the movie first alone to prepare to facilitate the discussion
- Read the guide for the movie you are watching, decide what your group needs
- Have a running sheet for the way the event will run, or use our template.
- Arrange your physical or online space for group dynamics
- Pray for the group before you meet.



DIRECTOR

Keep the discussion rolling...

How can you make sure the night runs smoothly?

- As the "director", you are not the expert but the person who makes sure the night runs smoothly, not the final authority on film or God.
- Ask an opening question, to get people thinking.
- Watch the movie together all the way through to allow people to develop their own ideas
- Prepare key clips to re-watch and discuss (provided in guides). These help with engagement



REVIEWER

Help your group members become reviewers

How can you encourage your group to engage with deeper questions?

- Establish a positive culture. Affirm people's comments and encourage respectful listening from the whole group through your example.
- Don't correct ideas but listen, mirror their response and then ask for the group's opinions to keep discussion flowing
- Encourage experiential comments and opinions. When people become more analytical, try and bring it back to the person's experience of the film by asking questions. Use your pre-prepared clips to refresh their initial reactions

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Film Synopsis

Caleb (Domhnall Gleeson) works as a coder for Bluebook, the world's largest internet search engine. When he wins a staff lottery he is given the chance to spend a week with the company's Founder and CEO, Nathan (Oscar Isaac). A helicopter delivers him to the reclusive genius's isolated residence. Caleb soon discovers that the visit is not purely recreational; he will be expected to take part in a cutting-edge experiment. Nathan has secretly created the world's first true artificial intelligence (AI) in the form of a beautiful robot named Ava (Alicia Vikander). Caleb's role is to decide whether her AI is convincing by conducting a series of conversations with her, all the while observed by Nathan. The longer Caleb spends in the facility, the more complex his feelings towards Ava become. He also begins to make a number of troubling discoveries, including Nathan's drinking habit, the existence of live-in maid Kyoko (Sonoya Mizuno), and the building's frequent power cuts. *And this is just the beginning...*



Produce

Planning List

- 1) Watch the Film, what themes can you see? What will your group connect with?
- 2) Prepare some discussion points to highlight these themes (suggested clips (p, 3)
- 3) Prepare a run sheet or adapt the template
- 4) Pray and prepare your space (online or physical)



Direct

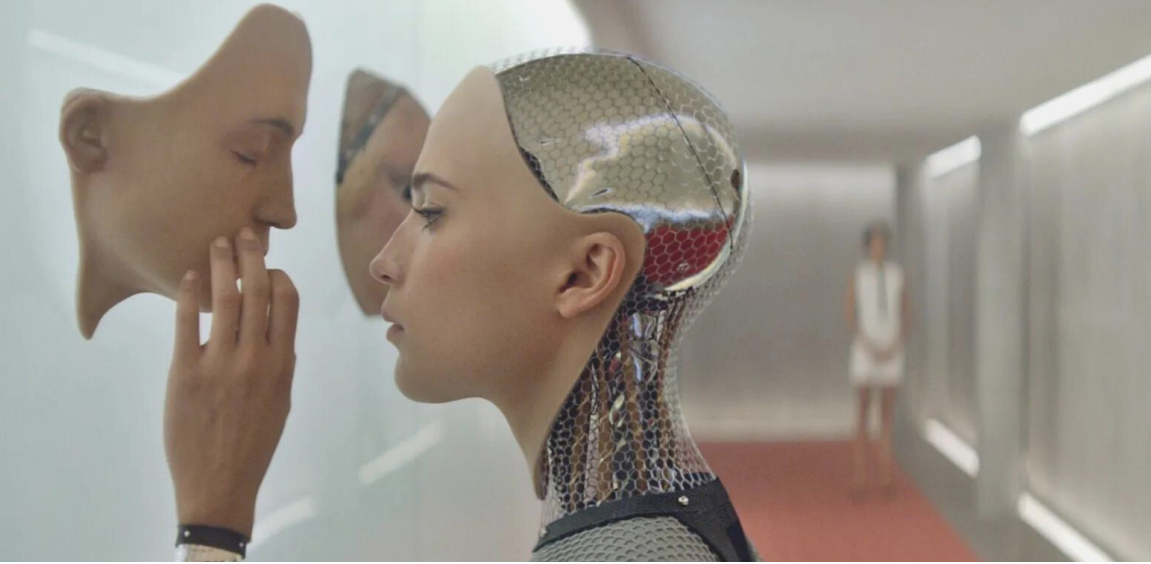
Discussion Questions

1. What did you think of the three central performances?
2. What did the set contribute to the feeling of the film? How were the internal and external settings used to create contrast and what effect did this have?
3. 'Garland's screenplay is a thriller in microcosm.' How effectively did it blend the genres of thriller and science fiction?



Review

Even with the less than satisfactory ending, this film asks many of the underlying questions of human existence. The illusions to the garden of Eden were not subtle. Ava and Caleb were the test subjects in the world created by Nathan. Unlike the God of the Bible who is merciful, gracious and perfect in intention and purpose, Nathan is brilliant, but a flawed creator. With wealth and power, he proves that he feels he is above all moral codes. Not knowing Alex Garland's intentions with the script, he did manage to expose the problem with created beings attempting to create other moral beings. Sinful intentions produce a tainted creation. Creation, intelligence, greed, power, morality, ethics, and sexuality are all touched on and given room for discussion after the film.



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Discussion points

The history of gods (Contains mature language)

The film's title makes reference to the phrase 'Deus ex Machina' - literally 'god from the machine' - the name of a dramatic device whereby a solution to the characters' problems appears out of nowhere at the end of a story

Have you thought about the notion of creation and how God played a role in the creation of humanity?

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. - Genesis 1:27

What are the basics of being human?

What would you do in Caleb's situation? What would you want to know about someone who is trying to figure out what it is to be conscience or desires to be human?

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you... Jeremiah 1:5



Close the Curtain

Did you program her to flirt with me? (Contains mature language)

Are we merely programmed to react to certain things in life like relationships? Or are we wired that way through nature or nurturing throughout our formative years? This is a compelling consideration to discuss on design and how we develop throughout our lives.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. - Psalm 139:13