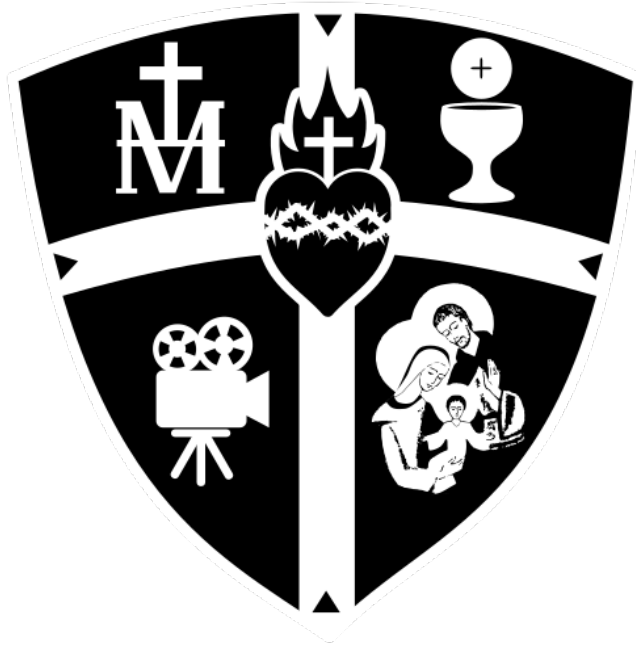




OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL STUDIOS

"Praising God one film at a time"

Study Guide for "A Great Day"

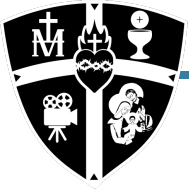




OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL STUDIOS

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OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL STUDIOS

Introduction to the Study Guide:

While the Film “A Great Day” is very enjoyable watching on the basic level, there are still many important themes missed by the average eye. From the sets and props in the background, to the music and action, these elements contain rich Catholic themes that embody our Faith and show its truths. Taking the time to identify and ponder these elements, while already being spiritually beneficial by itself, can in addition be a healthy exercise to review Catholic teaching. With that being stated, people of all ages should be encouraged to participate and study the film.

However, please keep in mind that while this study guide can be used to help stimulate discussion of the film, there is no need to stick rigidly to its forms. In certain situations it may be beneficial to only use some of the questions or come up with entirely new ones. Overall the film is designed to be implemented in whatever best serves the community. Free discussion is always welcomed and if it is flowing naturally there may be no need to even consult this list.

Scene 1 - Aunt's House



How is Fr. Zachary introduced? What is his relationship with his Aunt?

How does Fr. Zachary's Aunt deal with the family tragedy differently than Father? How does she try to help him?

Is there anyone in your family who has tried to help you? Have you let them?

How are Icons used in the scene? Is there significance to their placement?

Scene 2 - Railroad Tracks



What does the train represent? How does it effect Fr. Zachary?

Have you ever felt “triggered” by a thing or situation?

What does Fr. Zachary use to deal with his guilt? How do you handle guilt?

What do things by the memorial show?

Is Fr. Zachary's family similar to the Holy Family? How does Father's situation mirror that of the Blessed Mother?

Scene 3 - Arrival at the Hospital



How does the world of the Hospital contrast that of the earlier scenes?

Some say the world is too busy for Christ, how is this shown in the hospital?

Who does the Overworked Nurse represent? What is his problem?

Have you ever encountered people who discriminated you based upon faith? How should we deal with them?

Who is Sister Grace?

How does She represent the religious life?

Many say Christians must compromise to live in the modern world, how would Sister Grace respond to this?

Scene 4 - First Encounter with the Old Man



Who is the Old Man?

There are many who won't consider even a slight change, are you one of them?

How does Father's reaction contrast the Overworked Nurse? Have you ever seen a Non-Christian who is seemingly better than many professed "Christians"?

Scene 5 - Room 315 B



Why is Fr. Zachary's failure a particularly devastating one?

Have you ever failed anyone or felt you failed God?

Scene 6 - Evil Rumors



How do the two nurses reflect the world's view of priests?

They seem to “Lay Snares” for Fr. Zachary to land in. Has this ever happened to you?

Scene 7 - Rejecting the Vocation



How is Fr. Zachary's rejecting his vocation?

Suffering is hard. Why are Sister Grace's words not empty?

In difficult moments, what do we do?

Scene 8 - Return to the Old Man



How does the Old Man react the second time? What does Fr. Zachary do differently?

Has anyone ever taken the time to listen to you, or have you taken the time to listen to others?

The Old Man's burden is his tragedy. Do you have any pain that you need to share?

Scene 9 - In the Bathroom



Fr. Zachary's pain has caused his life to literally be "torn to pieces". Expanding on the last question from the previous page, have you had any pain that you can't bear any longer?

Below the mirror is a small image of the prodigal son. Where has this image been seen before and what does it represent?

Scene 10 - The Jesus Scene



Why is Jesus in the hallway?

Why does Fr. Zachary yell at Christ? What is he holding back?

How do we “yell” at Christ? What’s keeping us from him?

Why does Fr. Zachary get down on his knees? What does he realize?

Have you ever complained against God and immediately regretted it?

Why is it so difficult for Fr. Zachary to reach Jesus? Is this similar to us?

What is the significance of the rope around Jesus's hands? How do we prevent Jesus from helping us?

Only after Fr. Zachary surrenders does Jesus come over. Is there anything that you're holding back from God?

What would it take for you to surrender completely to God?

Scene 11 - Return to Reality



When Fr. Zachary awakes, what is the first thing he does?

How can the Eucharist be the summit of your spiritual life?

Scene 12 - The Final Battle



Why is Sister Grace in the room? Why is prayer important?

How are Fr. Zachary and the Old Man similar?

Is there anything that you blame yourself for?

How does Fr. Zachary imitate Christ in the scene? How does his example apply to us?

Why can Fr. Zachary forgive himself now? How can this help you forgive yourself?

Scene 13 - Montage of Change



How is the sacrament of reconciliation portrayed? What is its importance?

How is Fr. Zachary's encounter with the Overworked Nurse different from last time?

What is the significance of the red in the Eucharist?

How does the Eucharist effect the Overworked Nurse?

How can you positively effect others by sticking to your faith?

Scene 14 - The Last Moments



The Old Man is able to receive the grace of a Holy Death. How is this a situation both of sorrow and joy?

Many foolishly refuse the Last Rights out of pride and instead state that they're "Not too bad". Why is this philosophy not only false but extremely dangerous?

Have you ever seen a Holy Death? How do you picture your death?

Scene 15 - The Elevator Scene



How has the relationship between Fr. Zachary and the Nurse changed?

Notice Fr. Zachary doesn't press the Nurse with any questions. Why?

Scene 16 - Mass at the Convent



How is the Eucharist the center of the scene?

Priests and consecrated religious have a common bond. What is it?

Scene 17 - The Sacristy



Which icon in the scene has been seen before? Which one is new?

What themes do the icons express?

How is Sister Grace an example of intercession?
