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THE DELUXE EDITION

STUDY GUIDE

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16, NIV) **

DISCOVER ...

It's a word that perfectly encompasses a world teeming with possibilities. *Discover* is a toddler's amazement as she watches a bunny hop across the lawn for the first time ... and it's a young adult meeting that special someone.

Discover is grasping an understanding of science—or art—in school ... or in one's advancing years. *Discover* is being able to see things from a different perspective, even if you don't necessarily agree. *Discover* is finding hope that something better is coming despite what the current circumstances would indicate.

At the start of **MOST**, we discover a forlorn man walking and talking ... and hoping: "Maybe I'll discover something. Something new."

Normally in a movie, we learn the back-story of the characters—what has brought them to the point at which we meet them. In **MOST**, we are immediately taken into the life of this man and his young son. As they're walking through the train depot, we see Lada, the son, making eye contact with everyone they pass. Each person he sees has a story. While we only get a brief glimpse into each one, Lada seems to make a deep connection every time with his eyes.

For us, our deepest gaze is into Lada's life with his father. While their life is sparse on material items, it is overflowing with love. Their interaction draws us to them, leaving us wanting to know more about how they have arrived where they are.

Set and filmed in Eastern Europe, **MOST** is the Czech word for bridge, fitting since the father is a bridge keeper—the man that lifts the bridge to allow boats through and closes the bridge to allow trains to pass.

The job is a boy's dream and on this day, Lada convinces his father to let him come to work. The setting is picturesque: a boy fishing on the river while his father works nearby. But their idyllic day ends abruptly as the boy discovers the train is ahead of schedule; he hears the train's horn and sees its smoke coming closer. His father, however, he cannot find.

The son knows he must do something, so he attempts to rescue the train—filled with people oblivious to their impending doom. When he fails in his valiant effort, his father must make the most haunting of decisions—does he save his son, or forsake Lada for the people on the train? In one heartbreakingly agonizing moment, his choice is sealed.

Jesus is often referred to as the bridge between God and us. Our sins have created a chasm that keeps us from God. The Bible shows us that the only way to bridge that eternal gap is through Christ's sacrificial atonement on our behalf. God must choose between mankind and His only begotten Son.

Without the ugliness of Good Friday, Easter is just another Sunday. Without the father's sacrifice, the troubled girl on the train has her life end as it was lived—without purpose. Instead, we later see her in the city at the movie's end, joyfully celebrating the life she has brought into the world ... and her own life that now has meaning.

It's a discovery that allows Lada's father to continue pressing forward with the hope that can only come from Christ, the ultimate bridge.

STUDY QUESTIONS

What was your first thought when you saw the train coming toward the open bridge?

We meet a number of characters in passing in this movie. Beyond Lada and his father, whose story most intrigues you? Why?

One thing nearly all of the periphery characters in the movie have in common is that they are oblivious to what is going on around them. The troubled girl is more concerned about feeding her habits than about her sister's anguish over her condition. The college students are thinking only about having a good time. Brad from America is only focused on his broken heart.

Read Colossians 3:12-17

Why is it so difficult for us to turn our attention away from ourselves and onto the needs of others?

"... Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Colossians 3:12). Does this come naturally for you? If so, give a couple of examples of ways this verse shines through in your life. If not, do you work diligently to do so?

What do you think our world would look like if Christ-followers made a commitment to live as Colossians 3:12 calls us to live?

John 3:16 is at the heart of **MOST**. Yet when we see Lada reach for the lever that would bring the bridge down, we also see vividly that 1 John 3:16 is equally important in the telling of this moving parable.

Read 1 John 3:16-18

What does the Bible say the definition of love is in these verses?

While most of us will not literally be called to lay our lives down for another, we are still called to live sacrificial lives that serve others. What is an example in your life that you feel illustrates you living sacrificially?

We see both the father and son finding joy in the seemingly mundane—on the job, drinking coffee and tea, bedtime, fishing. After Lada's death, the father is, as expected, dejected and downcast.

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

Does God promise those that follow him an easy path?

Soon after Peter states that Christ-followers will face trials, he says that those who believe in him “are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy” (verse 8). Why do we often lose our joy when things go bad? What can you learn from these verses to help you better live joyfully?

What is the most challenging trial you have faced? How did you make it through?

For some of us, it's difficult to understand why God would require that his Son die as a sacrifice for the world. “... For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Read Romans 3:21-26

If you are a believer, how does this passage impact your daily walk with Christ?

If you are not a follower of Christ's, how does this passage challenge your thinking?

Having had some time to reflect, what are your feelings about **MOST**? What will you take away from having seen it?

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