

Discussion Questions for *Proof*

1. *Proof* is based on a Pulitzer Prize winning play of the same name. How do you think the four person play translated to the big screen?
2. *Proof* brings up a lot of interesting issues. Three of those issues were death, mental instability and the bond between parents and children. Was there anything related to those issues that you found intriguing or worth discussing?
3. The movies' main focus was on belief and evidence, on proof.. How do you decide what you will believe when it comes to complicated issues like love and faith?
4. Can there ever be enough evidence to prove something like love or madness to you or is it always a step of faith when dealing with intangibles?
5. The tagline for the film was: The biggest risk in life is not taking one. What do you think of that statement? Does that tagline capture the core idea of the film?

Wrap-Up

Throughout *Proof*, Catherine struggled to prove that she had written the mathematical proof as well as to demonstrate to herself and others that she wasn't crazy. Do crazy people ask if they are crazy? Can your memories deceive you? If everyone else thinks you are crazy are you? Can there ever be enough evidence to convince you that something is true? These are all questions that she was asking throughout the film.

This issue of proof and evidence and what you choose to place your faith in is significant. Do we believe what the media or government tells us? How trustworthy are our friends and family? How do you sort through all of the conflicting stories to get to the truth? What if the tagline to the movie is right – that the biggest risk in life really is not taking one? What if the evidence or people that you put your trust in is one of the most important life decisions you will make?

Ultimately, the question of faith becomes a question of trust. While we collect evidence and experience to help us make these significant relationships are often the most important factor. The people that we chose to trust, whether it's our parents or friends or culture, are often more influential than mere evidence. What is crazy about Jesus is that he claimed to not only speak the truth but to be the truth. He claimed that truth could be found in him and in relationship with him. People are notoriously untrustworthy but Jesus said that he was the exception and could always be trusted.

If there is never enough evidence to prove the most significant beliefs and aspects of our lives, they become a question of faith. Faith is determined by who you decide to put your trust in. Who have you decided is trustworthy in your faith journey? If Jesus claim to be the truth is valid, perhaps a relationship with him will help us develop enough trust to place our faith in him. Maybe truth really isn't objective, maybe it's subjective...Maybe truth springs from the subject of God...And on the subject of God, Jesus claimed to be the trustworthy source...But the only way to find out for sure is to take a risk and begin exploring what a relationship with Jesus is like.

Loss of mind=death? If everyone thinks you are crazy are you? How do Americans deal with mental instability? How should they?
How much of your parents are in you? Can you be different? Are you really your own person?