

## Reflection questions for The Village

1. M. Night Shayamalan has said that the culture of fear that sprang up in the U. S. after the 9-11 attacks was part of the inspiration for the film. Can you see that influence in the film?
2. Do you understand the elders desire to retreat from the pain of the world?
3. The desire for hope seemed to drive the elders to their decision to create their own Village. They had lost all hope in the real world and thought that if they controlled everything and kept the world out they would be safe from evil and pain. Why didn't this work?
4. If evil and suffering are unavoidable – where can we find hope?
5. Do you know of any people that chose to separate from the world like the villagers? If so, what solutions would you offer them while they try to heal from their wounds?
6. Most of the time when we think of hate as the opposite of love. The Bible says that the opposite of love is actually fear. Do you agree with that? How is that true?

### Wrap-Up

The great philosopher, Yoda of Star Wars fame, once said: "Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering." According to Yoda, hate which is often seen as the opposite of love, is actually a result of fear. The Village is a spiritual metaphor for a community that has given up on love and connection because of their fear. The answer to this fear is love. The Bible says "There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear." Jesus says something else very interesting about fear to his followers – he says: "Don't be afraid of those who want to kill you. There's nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life--body and soul--in his hands." Here he is talking about seeing the world through different lens. There is much more to life than just our physical bodies – it is our souls that Jesus was primarily concerned with. The truth is that evil exists and we will all experience significant pain – perhaps enough pain that we would be tempted to retreat from the world ourselves. The problem is, retreating isn't a real solution. We have to find a hope outside of this world that is so filled with pain. This is what Jesus said "I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world." It is in this that we can hope, and in the love of God and each other that we can weather the difficult times in our lives.

*Like every movie we show here at the Cinema and Spirit events we think that The Village brings up a lot of interesting issues that will prompt conversation. We don't necessarily endorse what goes on in the movie but we do think it's worth talking about.*

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