

Star Wars: The Last Jedi Discussion Guide

By Sam Sessa

Participant Guide

Group Discussion:

QUESTIONS PRESENTED CHRONOLOGICALLY

(hr:min:sec)

(0:1:45—0:12:10)

During the evacuation battle, Paige, the sister to Rose, dies sacrificing herself to blow up the Dreadnaught. Poe Dameron initiated a fight that ended up costing many people their lives.

- What does Poe's actions tell us about leadership?
- What does Paige's sacrifice tell us about doing your job? (Vocation)

(0:22:30—0:26:02)

Rey is trying to find her identity throughout both *The Last Jedi* and *The Force Awakens*.

While Rey is trying to find her identity as a pupil to Luke Skywalker, she starts to follow him up a steep hill. As she follows him, she hears whispers and begins to walk in a new direction. In part, this shows that Rey is striking out on her own path and doesn't need Luke.

When she finds the ancient Jedi texts, Luke is astonished and asks Rey's most important and intimate question, "Who are you?" Rey dodges the question by saying that the Resistance sent her. But Luke is driving to the heart of the matter. He presses on and asks, "Why are you here?" Rey dodges the question again and says, "The Resistance sent me." Luke pushes aside her façade and asks again, "Why are you here?"

Rey finally reveals what's going on inside, she is afraid and her fear stems from ignorance. She doesn't know who her parents are nor the power that is inside of her.

- How do you relate to Rey's fear?
- Through Jesus Christ, we are adopted as children of God. How does knowing who we are help with fear?

(0:13:43—0:14:48); (0:16:30—0:19:50)

- What are some of the ways that characters say goodbye to the past?

(0:38:10—0:41:50)

Finn is caught trying to escape using an escape pod. Before he is caught, he hypocritically tries to play the hero.

- What would you do if you were in Finn's position? Why?

(0:47:10—0:0:51:40)

Luke takes Rey to the top of the mountain to teach her about the Force. He shows her that the Force is what binds and connects all things. Then he teaches her the lesson. Luke says, "And this is the lesson: That Force does not belong to the Jedi. To say that if the Jedi die, the light dies, is vanity. Can you feel that?"

- How does the world see Christianity's claim that we have exclusive access to God and eternal life through Jesus Christ as vanity?
- How does this lesson from Luke reveal a belief that there are many paths to God?
- Read in a different light, how does this statement reveal that God is going to be working through His Word even if the church closes her doors?

(0:54:04—0:57:37)

When Finn and Rose are at the Cantina casino they see extravagant wealth. But the beauty is paid for by the blood and sweat of slaves.

- How do we subsidize our wealthy way of life by exploiting people here and around the world?

(1:11:12—1:13:22)

In one of their Force conversations, Kylo reveals to Rey what Luke tried to do. Afterward he says, "Let the past die. Kill it, if you have to. That is the only way to become who you were meant to be."

- How can the past become an unhealthy fixation for us in the present?
- How can killing the past be dangerous for us today?

(1:20:45—1:24:15)

After Rey confronts Luke about what he did to Kylo, she leaves to try and convert Kylo to the light side. Fed up with his failure, Luke goes to destroy the ancient Jedi texts when he meets Yoda. Luke loses his nerve but Yoda summons a lightning to burn the tree and the books. Yoda and Luke have the following conversation:

Luke: So, it is time for the Jedi Order to end.

Yoda: Time it is. Hmm. For you to look past a pile of old books, hmm?

Luke: The Sacred Jedi texts!

Yoda: Oh, read them, have you?

Luke: Well, I...

Yoda: Page-turners they were not. Yes, yes, yes. Wisdom they held but that library contained nothing that the girl Rey does not already possess. Skywalker, still looking to the horizon. Never here! *[pokes Luke with his walking stick]* Now, hmm? The need in front of your nose, hmm?

Luke: I was weak. Unwise.

Yoda: Lost Ben Solo, you did. Lose Rey, we must not.

Luke: I can't be what she needs me to be.

Yoda: Heeded my words not, did you. Pass on what you have learned. Strength, mastery. But weakness, folly, and failure. Yes, failure most of all. The greatest teacher, failure is.

Luke, we are what they grow beyond. That is the true burden of all masters.

- How does the world see Christianity as a bunch of people who can't "look past a pile of old books"?
- One of the central themes of Star Wars is that the answers are already inside of you. What would Jesus say about this?

(1:24:16—1:26:20)

The hacker, DJ, shows that the wealthy profit off the death of the Resistance and the First Order. DJ says to Finn, "Finn, let me learn you something big: It's all a machine, partner. Live free. Don't join."

- DJ shows Finn that the Resistance and the First Order are "two sides of the same coin" and that to "live free" is to not join either. In our society, are there other "two sides of the same coin" that we can join?
- How is the freedom that Christ offers us a radical departure from what our society offers us?

(1:47:37—1:49:32)

Kylo Ren appeals to Rey to "Let old things die." This scene combines the themes of identity, enemies, and letting go of the past. Kylo throws Ren's abusive parents in her face.

Ren: It's time to let old things die. Snoke, Skywalker, the Sith, the Jedi, the Rebels; let it all die. Rey...I want you to join me. We can rule together and bring a new order to the galaxy!

Rey: *[starting to tear up]* Don't do this, Ben. Please, don't go this way.

Ren: No, no, you're still...holding on! Let go! Do you want to know the truth about your parents, or have you always known? You've just hidden it away. You know the truth. Say it. *[Rey continues to tear up]* Say it.

Rey: *[tearfully]* They were nobody.

Ren: They were filthy junk traders; sold you off for drinking money. They're dead in a pauper's grave in the Jakku desert. You have no place in this story; you come from nothing. You're nothing...but not to me. Join me. *[he extends his hand towards Rey]* Please.

- What do you think about Rey's parentage? How do you feel about Kylo talking about them as "filthy junk traders; sold you off for drinking money. They're dead in a pauper's grave"?

Kylo says to Rey, "You have no place in this story; you come from nothing. You're nothing." Star Wars is a saga about the Skywalker family. First it was Anakin who became Darth Vader. Then it was about his children, Luke and Leia. Now it is about the third generation of Skywalker's, Ben Solo AKA Kylo Ren. Rey is not a Skywalker, and as such she doesn't have an honored place in this saga. In much the same way, the Bible is about the nation of Israel, the family of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. As Gentiles, we do not have an honored place in this story.

- How might Rey see herself, now that she has acknowledged her parents' abuse and are dead?
- How does adoption in God's family, through Baptism, change the way you see yourself?

(1:51:00—1:52:17)

Holdo sacrificed herself to save the Resistance.

- How does her sacrifice remind you of Christ?

(2:03:09—2:06:25)

Finn was going to sacrifice himself to save the Resistance, but Rose stopped him.

- How has Finn changed from the guy who tried to escape earlier in the film to the guy who was willing to sacrifice himself?
- If the Battering Ram Cannon was the judgment of the Law, how is what Rose did for Finn like what Christ did for us?

QUESTIONS PRESENTED THEMATICALLY

Self-Sacrifice

(0:1:45—0:12:10)

During the evacuation battle, Paige, the sister to Rose, dies sacrificing herself to blow up the Dreadnaught. Poe Dameron initiated a fight that ended up costing many people their lives.

- What does Poe's actions tell us about leadership?
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Removing Ties to the Past

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Wealth

(0:54:04—0:57:37)

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