

Transform Fear Resources

The Giver – Discussion questions after viewing the film

- 1) Why do you think the Elders chose the term/phrase “released to Elsewhere” or “released” in reference to euthanizing the old, the young and those who persist in breaking the rules? How does this mirror the politically-correct euphemisms in use nowadays for assisted suicide and euthanasia? Do you think this is purposeful?
- 2) Why do you think the community places such importance on “precision of language” despite its purposeful disconnect from reality and meaning?
- 3) What do you think of the community’s use of ritual and ceremonial rites of passage? What purpose does it serve?
- 4) What was your reaction to the “release of the new child”? Do you think it is significant that the community does not name the new children until they turn 1 year old and are given to a family?
- 5) What are the role of emotions & dreams in the community and the almost ritualistic processing of them with one’s family unit? How does this impact authenticity and depth of relationships?
- 6) Why do you think the Elders chose to create a surrogacy system for bringing new life into the community and constructed family units devoid of any biological relatedness? How does this relate to the Elders’ goal of eliminating choice and creating sameness? What do they hope to achieve by doing so? How is this similar to cultural trends in American society?
- 7) The Chief Elder states that the Receiver of Memory must have 5 qualities – intelligence, integrity, courage, wisdom and the capacity to see beyond – why are these traits so important for this role? How do these traits affect the Receiver’s capacity to deal with pain and provide wise counsel for the community? How does our faith shape these qualities in our lives?
- 8) The dynamic between pain, memory and wisdom is a major theme in “The Giver”; what are your thoughts on this relationship and how do you think this is important for the current movements in our society? How do these cultural trends shape our attitudes toward the elderly and disabled?
- 9) What is lacking by the removal of the old and multi-generational families from the community? What is lost without connections with the past?
- 10) How does authenticity, freedom based upon truth, memory and pain impact one’s capacity for love? Why are the Elders willing to sacrifice love? Is it worth it? Would you rather live without pain or live without love?