



Discussion for a movie night: Enjoy the film. Afterwards, here are some discussion questions that might help you to engage with others on the topics from the film. Enjoy the time engaging with the film, your faith and friends.



Film Synopsis

Joshua Connor (Russell Crowe) has lost everything. It's 1919, five years since his three sons left the family's Australian farmstead to fight at the Battle of Gallipoli. They did not return, and are presumed dead. Unable to live with her grief, Joshua's wife Eliza (Jacqueline McKenzie) commits suicide, and he makes her a graveside promise to bring back their sons' remains and bury them on home ground.

He travels to Turkey, where he stays in a hotel run by the recently widowed Ayshe (Olga Kurylenko), whose son Orhan (Dylan Georgiades) takes a shine to him. When the British Consul refuses Joshua a permit to travel to Gallipoli, Ayshe advises him to bribe a fisherman and make an illegal approach by sea.

Arriving at the site of the battlefield, Joshua finds ANZAC forces, led by Lieutenant Colonel Hughes (Jai Courtney), co-operating with defeated Turkish officers for the daunting task of mass burial. Thousands of men died at Gallipoli, Hughes tells Joshua - what makes him think he stands a chance of finding his sons? But Turkish Major Hasan (Yilmaz Erdogan) is sympathetic; and Joshua, it turns out, has a mystical knack for uncovering what's hidden beneath the ground.



Discussion points for Reel Dialogue

1. Did you enjoy the film, and why, or why not?
2. How did you react to the sections of the film portraying Joshua's search for his sons? What did you feel was contributed by the flashback scenes to the battle, and to the boys' childhoods?
3. How did you feel about Joshua's relationship with Orhan, and his romance with Ayshe? How effectively did the film balance the contrasting emotional tones of its war-based and romance-based plotlines?
4. How much did you know about the Battle of Gallipoli and its aftermath before seeing the film? What did you learn from *The Water Diviner*, and what questions were you left with?