

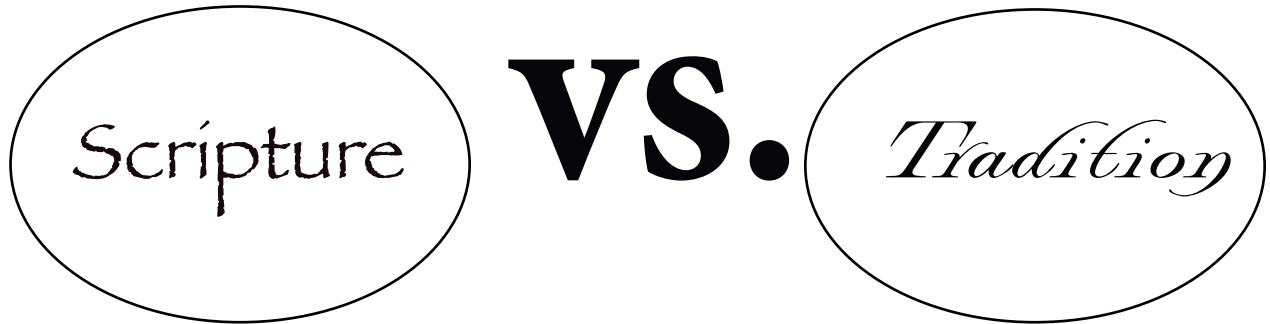
FAMILY FILM DEVOTIONAL GUIDE  
TO THE FILM

FLAME  
IN THE  
WIND

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*Flame in the Wind* portrays the dramatic difference between two philosophies that have stood against each other for centuries, a conflict that caused many deaths during the Spanish Inquisition. Even today, every person who evaluates Christianity must decide whether to trust the written Word of God contained in the Holy Bible or the traditions of man-made religion.

# 1 The Players

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The characters in *Flame in the Wind* do not have the option to choose to place their loyalty outside the established Church. But a group of brave individuals seek to serve God in spirit and truth despite the threat of torture and death. They demonstrate strong courage, steadfast faith, evangelism, and a desire for the Word of God. Describe how these characters portray these qualities and discuss the consequences they suffer as a result:

*La Contessa de Nuera*

*Carlos*

### ***BREAK IT UP***

We recommend looking over the guide and watching the film as a family the first night. Then take one section of this guide for each consecutive night for your family devotions. This will be more enriching than discussing the entire guide on one evening. Remember to plan another family movie night sometime during the year to refresh your memory of what you've learned!

*Fray Cristobal*

*Fernando*

Reflection: How did the boldness of these characters affect you? Can you think of others in history who stood boldly for their faith despite severe consequences? Discuss how the following verses relate to these characters in the film: Matt. 10:28, 32, 33; 1 Pet. 3:14.

## 2 The Battle

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Two battles are fought in *Flame in the Wind*. The first is the battle between Scripture and tradition and the second is the battle taking place in Carlos's heart.

### Scripture or Tradition?

Munebraga and Mendez fight to maintain the ultimate authority of the Mother Church and its traditions. Can you describe the differences between those who sought obedience to the Scriptures and the church leaders who sought obedience to the Church?

These are quotations from discussions between Carlos and the Jeromite Monks at San Isidoro:

*"It's strange, but some of the holiest doctrines I learned at the University seem to have no foundation in the Scripture."*

*"But the Church teaching claims equal authority with the Scriptures; what if the two contradict each other?"*

*"Sometimes it's as if the Church and the Scriptures are saying opposite things."*

*"Because only the Church can read the Scriptures aright and without confusion"*

*"But who is the church?"*

Reflection: Can you describe the conflicts involved with these statements? Discuss how you would respond if you were in discussions similar to the ones Carlos has. The following verses aid our understanding: Mark 12:24; Acts 17:2, 3, 11; Col. 2:8; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21.

## Man vs. Man

Carlos struggles with his own religious convictions throughout the film. He does not fully grasp the Gospel of Christ until near the end of the story at the Auto de Fe. The following characters play important roles in Carlos's life. Discuss how each influence his religious ideas:

*Mendez*

*Fernando*

*Fray Cristobal*

Reflection: We all make choices based on the influence of other people. Often we are not fully aware that we allow others to influence us. Whom do you allow to influence your personal convictions? Are you a good influence to others? Ask the Lord grant you the strength to remove bad influences from your life and help you to be a better influence on others. Consider the following verses: Prov. 13:20, 1 Thes. 5:11, 2 Tim. 4:2

The Holy Spirit is the primary influence when it comes to salvation and spiritual matters. Consider the following verses: Jn. 6:63; Rom. 8:2,5; Gal. 5:16-18,22.

Take the time to discuss the defining moments in Carlos's life. Describe the stumbling blocks to his coming to Christ as well as the positive influences. For example, Carlos takes much pride in his family heritage. Fray Cristobal admonishes him by saying that humility is the first step to salvation. Trace the steps of Carlos' religious pilgrimage and discuss.

# 3 The Victory

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The brave characters who publically proclaim faith in Christ alone face death at the hands of the Church. Heresy is the charge. Their faith brings about the salvation of others, especially Carlos. While it may appear that death is a tragic loss, it is not so in the eyes of God. God ultimately wins the victory in the battle Carlos has within. Fray Cristobal boldly proclaims, "I pray God that the torch that lights these fires may be a flame in the wind that will spread the light of the gospel throughout the World." Describe how the following give victory to the Lord by their faith and actions:

*Fray Cristobal*

*Fernando*

*Carlos*

*Don Juan de Alvarez (Carlos' father)*

Reflection: Read 1 Cor. 15:50-57. What is Paul communicating about death? Does Munebraga and the Mother Church truly gain victory over the heresy of the day according to this passage? How do you currently view death? Ask the Lord grant you courage and help you gain a proper view of death.

Consider the following verses that give hope in light of fear and death; especially if you experience uncertainty over these matters: Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23; Rom. 10:9; Rom. 10:13, Jn. 3:16.

# 4 The Scripture

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Why are Fray Cristobal and Fernando willing to die for the freedom to read and teach the Bible? Briefly discuss their roles in helping to make the Word of God available to the people of Spain. Consider prayerfully whether you would respond with the same obedience if God called you to such service.

Reflection: How much do you value the Bible compared with other things in your life? What would you sacrifice to keep it? Look up and discuss the following verses: Matt. 5:18, 24:35, Rom. 15:4; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:9, 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21.

If you are not reading your Bible regularly, ask the Lord to help you desire His Word more and more.

## Suggested Resources Available From BJU Press® & JourneyForth®

*Children of the Storm*

*Church History in First Person (DVD)*

*The Triumph of Truth: A Life of Martin Luther*

*Faith of Our Fathers: Scenes From Church History*

*Morning Star of the Reformation*

For more information about these titles as well as other helpful resources, please visit us online at **[www.bjupress.com](http://www.bjupress.com)** or call us at **1.800.845.5731**.