

# FAMILY FILM DEVOTIONAL GUIDE TO THE FILM

## ALSO RUNS THE RIVER

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1.800.845.5731  
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Two battles are fought in *Red Runs the River*. The first is a physical battle of brother against brother fought by all the characters in the story. The second battle, the spiritual one, is fought in the heart of General Richard Ewell.

# 1 The Battle

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General Ewell's resistance to God weakens throughout the film. Under what circumstances does Ewell display the following attitudes? Analyze how each reaction illustrates his progression from rebellion against God to submission before Him. For example, Ewell says at one point, "What I won, I won by myself."

*Anger*

*Pride*

*Conviction*

*Surrender*

Reflection: Do you know someone who resembles General Ewell? How can you be a good testimony to them? When have you acted in similar ways? What happened as a result? Consider the following verses: Ps. 14:1; Prov. 10:8; 19:1; 29:11; Rom. 7:7-9; 10:13.

## *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!

# 2 The Generals

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General Ewell and General Stonewall Jackson are exact opposites in character. Consider the following differences between the two. How do the men reveal their character by their actions?

## Ewell

Angry  
Profane  
Proud  
Negative  
Ridiculed

## Jackson

Patient  
Reverent  
Humble  
Positive  
Respected

Reflection: As a believer in Christ, General Jackson has the Holy Spirit indwelling him. Ewell does not. Compare your daily actions and responses to the actions of these two men. Which one do you most closely resemble? Discuss practical ways in which you can develop the fruit of the Spirit in your life. Consider the following verses: Prov. 17:27; 22:12; 25:28; Eph. 4:31; Gal. 5:22-24; Js. 4:6-8.

# 3 The Soldiers

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As the soldiers face possible death on the battlefield, they recognize spiritual truth and the importance of the Gospel of Christ.

## Forgiveness

Consider the scene in *Red Runs the River* when Apache asks Charlie to forgive him for the stolen pencil. When have you needed to forgive someone or needed forgiveness from another? Consider the following verses: Matt. 6:14,15; Matt. 18:21,22; Mark 11:25; Luke 17:4.

## The Bible

Several times the characters discuss the Bible. How does Scripture influence the lives of General Jackson, General Ewell, Apache, and the soldiers? What role does the Bible play in your life? Discuss ways that you can appreciate the Bible more. Consider these passages mentioned in the film and discuss them: Exod. 17:8-16; II Tim. 2:3. Also discuss the following verses concerning the Word of God: Rom. 15:4; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 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.

# 4 The Victory

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The ultimate victory is the salvation of General Ewell's soul. Realizing that God always wins, Ewell finally surrenders to God. When it comes to a war against God, surrender is victory.

Reflection: Have you surrendered to God? Are there battles going on in your heart against God? If you desire to surrender to God but are uncertain how to do so, discuss what is going on in your heart-with your family. If you are wondering how to receive Christ as your personal Savior, consider the following verses: Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23; Rom. 10:9; Rom. 10:13.

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*Chief*

*Brave the Wild Trail*

*In Search of Honor*

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