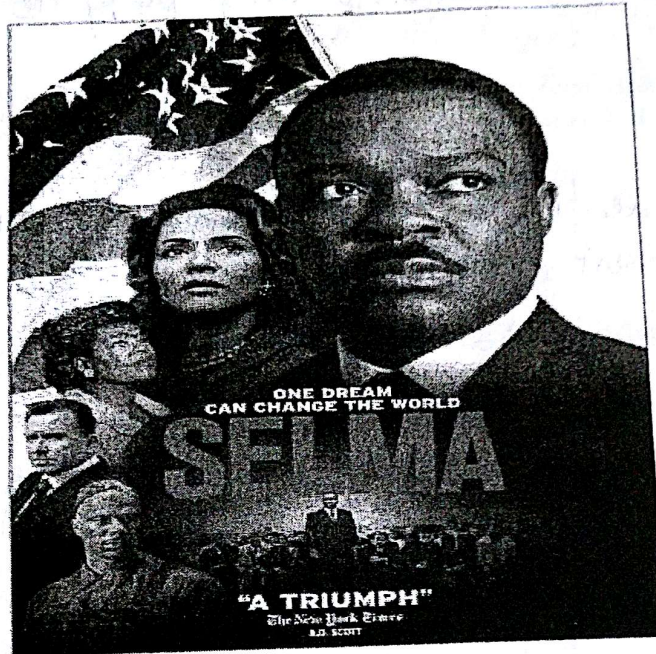


Name \_\_\_\_\_

Answer Key

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Selma Discussion Questions



No matter how familiar you are with the various facets of the Civil Rights Movement, you will walk away having learned something new from the recently released film, Selma. Selma is an exceptional and relevant film that raises critical issues that inform us not only about our past but also about our present. Its themes parallel current news stories and continue to keep us present in the current conversation on race in America.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What are your reactions to the film? Do you think it was a good depiction of the Civil Rights Movement based on your own experiences or on historical accounts that have been presented in the media and in history books?

- Movie critics and historians have both remarked that this movie is an excellent depiction of the CRM in most aspects.

2. How can the lessons from the Civil Rights Movement be applied to current conversations about racial profiling and police brutality?

- We can learn about the idea of tolerance, equality and acceptance of all races and cultures.



3. Do you feel the Black Lives Matter protests are a new chapter in the Civil Rights Movement?

- The Black Lives Matter protest is a new chapter in the fight for equal treatment of all people by the police.

4. Did the events surrounding the shooting of Michael Brown and the chokehold death of Eric Garner create a 'Selma moment' akin to the national outrage after Bloody Sunday?

- The recent deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner did create a moment of outrage similar to events during the CRM.

5. What are some of the similarities/differences between Selma and Ferguson?

- Similarities - Protest, violence & racial issues

- Differences - Selma was a protest related to voting rights  
Ferguson was a reaction to police brutality

6. Were the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) leaders and other young adult activists helpful or harmful regarding the march on Selma?

- As depicted in the film, some members of SNCC were helpful and some resisted.

7. What lessons can younger and older activists learn from each other about fighting for justice?

- The use of nonviolent protest

- Creating stronger positive relationships with the community and the police is crucial.

8. When protesting and working for peace seems to be in vain, do you ever feel like calling it quits? What motivates you to keep pressing on?

(student opinion)

9. When non-violent solutions seem not to work, should Christians sometimes adapt a more societal view of resolving violence with violence? What helps you to remain non-violent in a violent world?

- Violence is never the answer to any problem
- People of any faith must work together in a nonviolent manner to resolve issues

10. During their second march which has since become known as Turnaround Tuesday, as the marchers came face-to-face with the police, Dr. King Jr. knelt down to pray and after a few minutes turned around and headed back in the direction of Selma. What role does prayer play in the non-violent movement?

- People with strong religious beliefs use prayer for support & guidance
- Prayer is extremely important to people of faith

11. Following the coverage of Bloody Sunday, many were moved by the images and depiction of the brutality that was inflicted on the marchers. What role does media coverage play in forwarding or setting back a movement?

- The media plays a huge role in any movement because it gets the message out to many people.

12. President Lyndon B. Johnson was portrayed as being hesitant to sign the voting rights act because there were other issues that were suggested to be more important. Did you think the portrayal was fair? What lessons can be learned from *Selma* regarding the need to be persistent in getting political leaders to speak and act on particular issues?

- The portrayal of LBJ wasn't complete fair in this film. LBJ did a lot of work behind the scenes to get the Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed into law.



13. What sort of legislation can be put in place for the Black Lives Matter movement?

- standards for police use of deadly force
- Body cameras on police
- steps to improve police and court policies

14. Many (both black and white, Christians and non-Christians, pastors and lay people, young and old) answered the 'call' to come to Selma. How does cross-cultural unity help to frame a movement?

- The more people that get involved in any movement creates a better chance for success.

15. Dr. King challenged America with these words, "If you believe all are created equal, come to Selma, join us, and join our march against injustice and inhumanity." How are you answering the 'call' to participate in movements that do not directly impact you?

(student opinion)