FUTURE TENSE
USER GUIDE

A WORD ABOUT USING FUTURE TENSE
FUTURE TENSE will produce a strong emotional response in most viewers. By design, the tension we experience from FUTURE TENSE is not resolved within the film. Rather, it is intended that resolution come through the interaction (both short and long term) which should follow the viewing.

Be prepared for a tremendous ministry opportunity:

1. Plan for adequate time after the film to deal with needs.
2. View FUTURE TENSE before showing it to your group.
3. Prayerfully consider the information in this user guide.

THE PURPOSE OF FUTURE TENSE
FUTURE TENSE was created to help viewers come to a decision concerning:

a) their personal relationship with Jesus Christ; and,
b) their personal commitment to share their faith in Jesus Christ with others.

A WORD FROM THE MAKERS OF FUTURE TENSE
FUTURE TENSE powerfully dramatizes an important prophetic event in order to achieve its purpose. The film is not intended to be a complete statement on the "end times", though it is an extremely effective springboard into the topic.

While FUTURE TENSE does present a particular view, it is stated clearly in the film that, "there are different opinions..."
INTRODUCING FUTURE TENSE

Be brief and to the point. The sooner you get into the film, the more you’ll have to talk about it later - time you’ll need. You might go with something like, "What if..."

What if you find it intriguing, maybe even a little disturbing. I'd like to get right into it because I'm really interested to find out what you think about it.

"We've got a really tough producing film tonight; sort of a what-if story. It's called FUTURE TENSE. I think you'll find it intriguing because I'm really interested to find out what you think about it."

1. After having become familiar with the discussion guide, decide whether its best for your group to discuss the film all together or in smaller groups and if you will need to prepare group discussion leaders.

2. Prepare the viewing room to ensure that the lighting, sound, and picture quality are as good as can be for the film.

BEFORE YOU SHOW FUTURE TENSE

1. When the film ends, move quickly to grab the attention of your viewers. There will probably be a variety of reactions to the movie. Before people have a chance to begin releasing their emotions in unconnected ways ask:

   - What is your first reaction to FUTURE TENSE?
   - What did you see that bothered you?
   - Why do you think that made you uncomfortable?
   - What did you see that made you uncomfortable?
   - What surprised you about the film? Why?
   - What is the purpose of FUTURE TENSE?

THE LENGTH OF FUTURE TENSE IS 30 MINUTES

When the lights come up

2. Continue some of the things you felt while you watched the film, i.e.: urgency. Fear. Anger. Conviction.

3. As the conversation develops, make a transition with something like:

   - Through the man's eyes we saw Michael's description of what it might be like on the morning after millions of Christians have disappeared from the face of the earth.

4. Ask about the major scenes in the film. As the man died, and the listened to Michael's tape, they each pictured in their heads how Michael was describing on his tape.

   - The answer to the question can be found in the scriptures. We hear about the beginning of the film from 2 Peter 3:9. For the Lord is still slow about his promise, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. There is only one agenda for which His return is being delayed, and that is the agenda of giving someone the opportunity to turn to Christ. That is the purpose of FUTURE TENSE.

   - Does it seem that you might want to ask later about how people react while the film was rolling?

   - Their non-verbal (and verbal) reactions. Are they really into the film? Do they seem nervous, offended, confused? Are there any questions you might want to ask later about how people reacted while the film was rolling?

   - In the words of the director of FUTURE TENSE, "After months on this project, the most important question to me is not, 'When will He return?' but 'Why does He delay?'

   - The answer to this question can be found in the scriptures. The Lord is still slow about his promise, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. There is only one agenda for which His return is being delayed, and that is the agenda of giving someone the opportunity to turn to Christ. That's the purpose of FUTURE TENSE."
• Through the dad's eyes we saw how people might try to explain such an event. Through Callie's eyes we saw Michael's dream. Which scenes affected you most? Why?

5. Ask about some of the film's dialogue. What was your reaction when...

• Michael said, "I don't know why it's so difficult to talk to yourself. It's as if there's one room in the house that no one is supposed to go into. And if you accidentally wander into that room, and someone just happens to follow you in, then you're both obligated by some unwritten rule to back out as quietly and quickly as possible."

• Michael said, "There are over 300 passages in the Bible that deal with the return of Christ. Many of them indicate that He could come at any moment..."

• The family is eating, and Cody asks, "What's the end of the world?" Dad says, "There is no such thing as the end of the world." Callie asks, "How can we know that?" Dad replies, "Well as long as I can remember there have been people who come along every so often and predict that the world is about to end. A lot of people get upset, and then nothing happens... and then everybody forgets about it. It's happened that way for thousands of years and look, the world is still here."

6. The central message of FUTURE TENSE is given by Michael when he says, "It all comes down to this. Jesus promised that one day He would return for all those who have truly believed and trusted in Him. But you can't wait until that day comes to decide what you believe, because when it comes, there won't be time to make a decision."

COMING TO A CONCLUSION

By this point, viewers are likely to fit into one of two categories:

1. Those who are experiencing tension because they have never been personally introduced to Christ, and they do not know what the future holds for them; and,

2. Those who know Christ but are concerned about someone they know who does not know Christ. The following is written as an example of how you might identify and separate these two types of viewers so that you can deal with their individual needs:

"After viewing a film like FUTURE TENSE, it is normal that you might feel some tension. Perhaps you are feeling tense because you do not know where you would be if Jesus returned today. Or perhaps you are already a Christian, but you are concerned because God has placed someone on your mind that may not know Christ.

Tension is not bad when it leads to resolution and positive action. Before we wrap up our time together, I am going to give you an opportunity to resolve the tension you might be feeling.

If you are ready to make certain that your relationship with Jesus Christ is what it should be, then as we dismiss, I encourage you to talk with me (or one of the group leaders). If you are concerned about sharing your faith with someone that God has placed on your heart tonight, then I would encourage you to talk with me (or one of the group leaders) to help you set some goals and make some decisions about sharing your faith."

Note: You may want to direct each group to a predetermined location. Preferably, this location would be adjoining, but separate from your main meeting area where those who have not responded to your invitation are likely to linger after being dismissed.
INTRODUCING A PERSON TO JESUS CHRIST

While FUTURE TENSE presents the need to make a decision to trust Christ, it does not present the "Gospel of Jesus Christ" per se. For those who have responded to your first invitation (above), you will want to present the gospel and provide an opportunity for response.

Many good tools are available to help a person share the gospel. The "Four Spiritual Laws" by Campus Crusade for Christ, and "Your Most Important Relationship" by Youth for Christ are two such tools. The following basic outline may also be used as an aid in introducing a person to Jesus Christ:

I. PRESENTATION OF THE GOSPEL

a. God loves you.
   (John 3:16, Rom. 5:8)

b. Our own sin keeps us from knowing God and His love.
   (Rom. 3:23, Isaiah 59:2, Rom. 6:23)

c. Jesus is the only one who can remove the barrier of your sin and restore you to God.
   (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5,6; 1 Peter 3:18)

d. You must personally receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.
   (Revelation 3:20, Acts 3:19, John 1:12)

II. PROVIDING FOR RESPONSE

You may want to use this simple prayer to help a viewer express his or her decision to receive Christ:

"Dear God, I know that I have been separated from You..."