A word about using Moment of Truth

*Moment of Truth* will produce a strong response in many viewers. It is intended that this response be dealt with 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 the needs of viewers.
2. View *Moment of Truth* before showing it to your group.
3. Prayerfully consider the information in this user guide.

The purpose of Moment of Truth

*Moment of Truth* was created to help viewers come to a decision concerning:

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

Within the story line, *Moment of Truth* deals with issues such as divorce, prayer, and spiritual warfare. It is an excellent "lead in" to any one of these subjects. However, it was not the intent of the producer that these issues be the focus of the film, but rather that they lead the viewer to deal with the main issue of the film – knowing Christ and sharing Him with others.

This user guide is intended to help you be sensitive to the different issues that viewers may want to deal with and yet stay on track with the expressed purpose of the film.

Before showing Moment of Truth

1. After having become familiar with the discussion guide, decide whether it's best for your group to discuss the film all together or in small groups and if you will need to prepare group discussion leaders.
2. Prepare the viewing room and equipment to insure that the lighting, sound, and picture quality are as good as they can possibly be. Check color and brightness if you are using video.

**Introducing Moment of Truth**

Be brief and to the point. The sooner you get into the film the more time you'll have to talk about it later – time you'll need. You might go with something like:

"We've got a really different kind of film tonight. It's only 28 minutes but it's got a lot in it and it really moves fast, so you've got to pay attention. Some of it may make you uncomfortable, and some of it may raise some big questions. I'm really interested to find out what you think, so let's get right into it."

**While the film is rolling**

Watch people watching Moment of Truth. Try to read their non-verbal (and verbal) reactions. Are they really into the film, or do they seem uncomfortable or distracted? Do you observe anything that might indicate what is going on spiritually with your group? Pray for your viewers.

Are there any questions you might want to ask later about how they reacted during the film?

**After the film**

1. When the film ends, move quickly to grab the attention of your viewers. Ask something like, "What was your first reaction to Moment of Truth?"

2. These questions will help involve your viewers in discussion:

- What scenes stand out for you? Why?
- What surprised you in the film?
- What did you see that bothered you?
- Why do you think that made you uncomfortable?
- Can you relate to any of the characters in the film?

3. Encourage dialogue by asking about major scenes in the film:

- What did you think about the scene of the young boy being led down the hall and shut in the dark closet? Does this scene capture what it feels like to be a child of divorce?

**Note**—It is possible that someone could miss the symbolism of this scene and read it as an actual event. Feel out their understanding of the scene. If necessary clarify that this scene describes how Norm felt as a child of divorce.

- What did you think about the scene in the car where Allen talked with Norm about Jesus?
- What did you think about the scenes showing all the people praying for Norm?
- How did you interpret the end of the film when the door blows open, the hallway is flooded with light and the clock starts counting up instead of down?

4. Ask for feedback on some of the film's dialogue:
- Concerning the clock, the angel Cheth explains, "The Master prepares every human for a moment in time in which to encounter the truth about His work in this world... In a matter of minutes, Norman will encounter his Moment of Truth." See Ecclesiastes 3:1.
• In regard to Allen, Cheth says, "It appears that Allen is the one chosen by the Master before the beginning of time to speak the truth with Norman. I hope that he seizes the opportunity." See Ephesians 2:10.

• What do you think about Allen's question to Norm, "If you died tonight, are you certain that you'd go to heaven?" And what about his follow-up question, "If you were standing before God and He asked you why He should let you in, what would you say?"

Coming to a conclusion

By this point in the discussion, individual viewers are probably dealing with a variety of different issues; some of them personal in nature. Explain that you are aware of this. Encourage those who want to talk further about the film to do so with you or one of the other workers afterwards or at a later time. Explain that you would like to conclude by identifying some central issues in the film. The following is an example of how you might wrap up:

"First, I would like to challenge those of you who have already placed your trust in Christ. This film shows the tremendous responsibility that we have to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those whom God places in our path. As the one Angel said, 'So Allen is the one who was chosen before the beginning of time to speak the truth with Norman. I hope that he seizes the opportunity.' Perhaps you know someone who needs to hear about Jesus, and perhaps God is nudging you to be the one to share. If so, then I want to encourage you to say 'yes' to God. Make a commitment to God tonight that you will 'seize the opportunity' to share the Gospel with that person."

"Second, I would like to speak to anyone who has not yet trusted Christ. In the film, Norm felt as though he had been shut away in a closet and surrounded by darkness. This is how Norm felt as a child of divorce; alone, isolated, and a prisoner of circumstances beyond his control. But there are many people who feel like Norm and have never been through a divorce. And like Norm, they cannot unlock the door that keeps them from being free."

"Perhaps you can identify with Norm. You feel trapped, helpless, alone. And like Norm, if you died tonight, you are not even certain where you'd be. Really that's a pretty miserable condition to be in. But you know, you don't have to leave here in that condition. You can leave here with a freedom you've never known, and a certainty about where you're headed. If that is something you'd like to do, then I encourage you to say 'yes' to God tonight. Trust Christ as your Savior, and accept God's free gift of eternal life. This could be your Moment of Truth."

Providing for a response

You have presented two challenges: one to the Christian to share the Gospel, and one to the non-Christian to trust Christ. These challenges deserve a clear and immediate opportunity for response. Here are just a few suggestions:

1. Close the wrap up with a prayer, giving viewers an opportunity to respond with you in prayer. You may want to request that those who are praying with you indicate that they are doing so by raising their hand.

2. Ask those who wish to respond to go to a designated location in the room (or to another room) to be counseled.
3. Provide cards on which viewers can indicate their desire
to talk with someone about trusting Christ, or about
sharing the Gospel. You might want to provide for
viewers to express other needs as well.

**Introducing a person to Jesus Christ**

You may want to review the Gospel with those who have
indicated a desire to trust Christ. There are many good
tools to help a person share the Gospel. The Four Spiritual
Laws by Campus Crusade for Christ is one such tool. Or
you may simply use the outline that was written on the
card in the film (given below). In fact, you may want to
make up several of these cards to pass out to your group.

1. **God really loves me.** John 3:16, Romans 5:8
2. **I'm separated from God by my sin.** Romans 3:23, 6:23
3. **Jesus came to take my sin away.** I Corinthians 15:3-4,
   John 1:29
   
   _He'll never leave me._
   
   _He'll never let me down._
4. **I've got to choose.** John 1:12, Romans 10:9-10

A simple prayer in response to the Gospel:

"Dear God, I know that I have been separated from you by
my sin. I thank you, Lord Jesus, for dying in my place to
rescue me from the penalty and power of my sin. I am
ready to give you control of my life. Forgive me, fill me
with your Holy Spirit, and make me the kind of person
you want me to be. In Jesus' name, Amen."

**Challenging Christians to share their faith**

Some simple steps to help viewers follow through with a
commitment to share the Gospel:

1. **Commit to pray daily for those people that God places
   on your heart. Pray that God would prepare them to
   hear, and that you would be sensitive to the opportunity
   to share the Gospel.**
2. **Prayerfully give your commitment a time frame.**
3. **Share your commitment with a friend who will pray
   with you and encourage you to keep with it.**
4. **Practice sharing the Gospel (as outlined above) with
   your friend.**

The Gospel presentation in this film is similar to the
method taught by Evangelism Explosion. For information
about their complete evangelism training programs for
adults and teens call or write Evangelism Explosion,
P.O. Box 23820, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33307,
(954) 491-6100.

**For all who have trusted Christ**

- Read God's word, the Bible, daily.
- Talk to God (pray) often.
- Get involved in a church that teaches the Bible.
- Seek help from an older believer(s).
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you.

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