

A Man Called Otto

1. Was there a character in the movie who might represent the Holy Spirit? If so, what characteristics does this Holy Spirit character exhibit?

2. As the movie progresses, we begin to see Otto's Life through flashbacks. Do these flashbacks change your perspective of Otto? If your perspective has changed, what spiritual practices does this change in perspective reflect?

3. Otto's wife, Sonya, saw Otto's inner beauty. Give examples of what Otto did that contributed to her ability to see his beauty.

4. What drove Otto's motivation to die by suicide?

5. Otto's new neighbor, Marisol, demonstrates that being an idiot is fine. What does she say that expresses this sentiment? How might we say the same thing in spiritual terms?

6. Initially, Otto seems to see everything as black or white, and right or wrong, but these strong programs seem to lessen. Were you able to determine when and how these programs began to be undone or let go? As Otto began to allow his emotional capacity to expand and allow others into his life, he experienced the peeling away of what he really was not and allowed the awakening of what he actually was to shine through. Share your insights as to what happened as Otto.

7. In his grief, Otto is harsh and unpleasant to many around him, seemingly oblivious to the consequence of his words. Reflect on a time someone was very grumpy, angry, or rude to you. How did you feel about your interaction with this person? Do you believe your interaction with the person might have changed if you were able to view their "backstory" as we did with Otto?

8. Otto saves the life of an elderly and infirm man who falls down onto the railroad tracks, while the people around him seem insensitive and unhelpful. What seemed to be Otto's motivation to help the older man? Describe a time you showed kindness or generosity to someone you didn't know very well. What was your motivation?

9. Sonya told Otto, "You're angry and sad...but now we have to live." What was the message here?

10. Compare Sonya and Marisol.