End of the Spear: Questions for dialogue

After seeing the movie, there are many unanswered questions. There are holes which the script left on purpose, so that the spectator would reflect and arrive at his own conclusions. The following questions are intended to help this process, which will surely enrich the conversation of those who dedicate time to talk frankly and listen with interest to the opinions of others.

1. What is the motive of James Elliot and his co-workers? What does the movie tell us regarding this and what can we learn from the biography of Elliot?

2. What can we learn about the notion of the "noble savage" which presents the natives, who live isolated from western civilization, as human beings living in perfect harmony with nature, who can only be harmed when they come into contact with our civilization?

3. Why don't the missionaries use their weapons, even to legitimately defend themselves?

4. What motivated the wives to go and live with the assassins of their husbands?

5. How does one break the cycle of violence and revenge when others have assassinated your father?

6. What place does pardon have in the reconciliation between those who have fought with each other?

7. Can there be pardon without confession and repentance?

8. What benefits did the sacrifice of the missionaries bring to the tribe of the Waodani?

9. Is there a parallelism between the reconciliation of Steve (the sone of James) and Mincayani (the assassin of his father) with the reconciliation of humankind and God? Read John 3:16 in the Bible.

10. The sons of Steve today call the assassin of their grandfather "Grandpa" and they treat him as such. How is this possible?