



Chase Ellison as the young Steve Saint, seeing his father off

If moviegoers leave the theater asking questions, so much the better as far as producer Mart Green is concerned. His company, Every Tribe Entertainment, also recently produced a companion documentary about the events of 1956, *Beyond the Gates of Splendor*, which has been circulating among churches. The hope is that the believer who's seen the documentary will be able to bring the non-believer, fresh from the multiplex, "deeper into the truth of the story."

And the truth of the story is this: God had a Son who was speared so that we all might know forgiveness. Mincayani and the Waodani learned this when Nate Saint's sister Rachel, along with two of the widows and their children, moved into the Waodani village in the wake of their loved ones' deaths. It was through their witness that much of the tribe converted to Christianity. And it's through the harrowing experience of two men as told in *End of the Spear*—Steve Saint and Mincaye, now as close as father and son—that moviegoers can learn the power of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Talk About It



1. Do you agree with the strategy of the missionaries? Would you have done anything differently if you were in their shoes?
2. The missionaries refused to use the guns they brought, even in self-defense. Do you think that was the right decision? Why or why not?
3. If you were Steve Saint, could you have forgiven the Waodani and Mincayani? Why or why not? How does the film's portrayal of reconciliation affect you? Are there relationships in your life that need a radical act of forgiveness?
4. For all its focus on the big themes of depravity, forgiveness, and redemption, there are quiet comedic elements that pop up throughout *End of the Spear*, providing much-needed breathing room in the narrative—allowing the audience to relate to the missionaries and the Waodani alike. Consider each of the people groups. In what ways can you relate to the stone-age tribe of Waodani? In what ways can you relate to pioneer-like missionaries?

The Family Corner



The violence that characterized Waodani culture is captured in this movie and the images are unsuitable for young children. In keeping with their tradition, the Waodani sport little clothing and there are a few scenes of topless adolescent girls.

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What Other Critics Are Saying

compiled by Jeffrey Overstreet

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Directed by Jim Hanon, *End of the Spear* is a dramatization of the famous events in which American Christian missionaries were killed in the jungles of Ecuador.

Films about religious endeavors usually provoke mainstream critics to voice hysterical and negative reactions, but that is largely because movies made *by* Christians *about* Christians are often poorly crafted and preachy. The filmmakers have done their job well enough to earn