



## FILM SCREENING GUIDE

Presented by Interfaith Power & Light

Drawn from the original screening guide for Virginia's Calling

Interfaith Power & Light is pleased to offer VIRGINIA'S CALLING, an inspiring film that follows a young evangelical mother as she grapples spiritually with the challenge of a hurricane flooding her home and the connection to climate change. Despite our varied faith backgrounds and spiritual beliefs we are all bound together as human beings by the threat that climate change poses to our common home, and the challenge to care for our climate. Virginia's courage is an inspiration. Thanks to producers and directors Barry Lyons and Linda Nieman for this opportunity to share their film. The film is 30 minutes long.

This guide contains:

- Film overview and screening tips
- Faith-focused and general discussion questions to spark meaningful conversations
- IPL Audience Sign-in Sheet: If you are doing an in-person COVID-safe event, please pass it around at your screening and mail back to IPL, 672 13th St., Ste. 100, Oakland, CA 94612. Or take a photo of the sign in sheet and email to Sarah at [programs@interfaithpowerandlight.org](mailto:programs@interfaithpowerandlight.org). By signing, audience members can join the nationwide movement and receive faith-based resources for caring for the Earth

## Film overview

### VIRGINIA'S CALLING

A homeschooling mom's picture-perfect life is shattered when her home floods. Just as she hits rock-bottom, an unlikely spiritual guide appears. A warm, intimate portrait of a strong and determined woman of faith, VIRGINIA'S CALLING offers a sensitive look into the human effects of climate change on an evangelical family that never thought climate change would affect them. Virginia's new purpose has far-reaching effects.

A documentary film by Barry Lyons and Linda Nieman. 30 minutes long. Barry Lyons and Linda Nieman are available to attend your online screenings and discussions, contact [barry@virginiascalling.org](mailto:barry@virginiascalling.org)

[VIRGINIASCALLING.ORG](http://VIRGINIASCALLING.ORG) | [BARRY@VIRGINIASCALLING.ORG](mailto:BARRY@VIRGINIASCALLING.ORG)



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## Screening tips

### In-Person Community Screening

Please follow COVID-19 safety guidelines in your area. Consider an outdoor screening. Be sure to arrange for a good sound system. Try out your technology before your event.

### Virtual screening

It's ok to show this film DVD over an online platform such as Zoom from your computer. Play the DVD in your computer and here are a few tips for Zoom / Zoom Webinar:

1. Click Screen Share in the bottom toolbar.
2. Select the Desktop window you would like to share, which will be the browser window that has the film.
3. Be sure to check Optimize for Video Clip. This should automatically check Share Sound as well, but if not, do so.
4. When the film is done, click Stop Share.
5. You will then be visible again on your Zoom/Zoom Webinar, to host your post-screening conversation or give your call to action.

## Discussion Guide for Leaders

### Procedures & Ground Rules

#### Advance Preparation

Decide whether to watch the film in one session or in two 15-minute parts, spread over two sessions. For in person-meetings: On a whiteboard or poster board that you will place where all participants will be able to see it, copy the Ground Rules listed below. To ensure that participants can address each other by name, obtain name badges and have markers for printing first names in large letters.

#### Opening

Suggested words/thoughts for transitioning from the film viewing to the discussion part of the program: "As Virginia's story demonstrates, part of seeking truth ( opt: and discerning God's will) involves opening our hearts and minds to speak freely with others whose perspectives and experiences differ widely. Despite differences, we are intimately bound together as a community of human beings."

#### Ground Rules

Quickly review standard practices that keep discussions open, respectful, and brave:

- Listen to really hear.
- Respect confidentiality.
- Speak from your own experience.
- Make everyone feel comfortable, heard, and respected.
- Expect unfinished business—both discomfort and joy.

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## Discussion

Choose from the next page 4 or 5 questions that are best suited for your group. You may only get through one or two. The point is to engage all participants by getting them thinking, talking, and responding among themselves. We offer here enough questions for a multi-week discussion series. Use the questions to keep the discussion on topic. If it gets off track, bring the discussion back to the question, or move on to a new question.

## Closing

Refer participants to VIRGINIASCALLING.org for additional sources of evangelical and conservative Christian-oriented information and opportunities, if appropriate for your audience. Refer participants to Interfaith Power & Light ([www.interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org)) for additional resources appropriate for all faith traditions. There are resources for worship, starting a green team at your congregation, reducing carbon emissions of your house of worship, educating your congregation, advocating for sustainable policies, and more. Encourage participants to help promote VIRGINIA'S CALLING through their social media and personal contacts.

End with prayer.

## Follow-up

How did your screening and discussion go? What proved most helpful? Most thought-provoking? What didn't your participants like? Did you encounter any technical glitches or other types of problems? Please email comments to [Barry@VIRGINIASCALLING.org](mailto:Barry@VIRGINIASCALLING.org) and [programs@interfaithpowerandlight.org](mailto:programs@interfaithpowerandlight.org).

Discussion questions on the next page for ease of printing.

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## VIRGINIA'S CALLING Discussion Questions

1. Virginia prayed that God would hold back the flood waters, and she says she was certain that He would. Yet, the flood waters rose. She ultimately concludes that this was a “wake-up call” from God, part of God calling her to take a stand to defend His creation from destruction caused by humans. Assess this conclusion. Can you imagine feeling the same way? How would your theology inform your thought process in a situation like this?
2. The flooding of her home left Virginia in despair. The emotional and spiritual toll of extreme weather, natural disasters, and climate change isn't often widely discussed. Have you or someone you are connected to experienced the impact of a climate disaster? How did you feel? What resources are available, or could be developed, in your community to help people experiencing despair or spiritual crisis in the wake of a disaster?
3. What is the relationship between praying for God's intervention, as Virginia does in the storm, and our own role in addressing large-scale environmental challenges and stewardship of the Earth? What is the role of prayer in your religious tradition, and what does your religious tradition call its believers to do about caring for our common home?
4. Virginia affirms that God entrusted humans with the earth to take care of, and she argues that being faithful to God means making choices that protect this planet. In what ways do you agree or disagree?
5. Virginia is a conservative evangelical Christian, but she works with people with a wide variety of views in advocating for measures to address flooding and climate change in Virginia Beach and beyond. How would you describe the challenge facing people of different religious faiths working together as a group to protect their community and care for the Earth? How can these challenges be addressed? What would the impact on the work be if all faiths worked together for care for the Earth?
6. Virginia believes that God's love is for everyone, regardless of political affiliation. How can her belief help her to work together with people from different religious traditions to care for God's creation? Do you hold a similar belief of universal love in your tradition, and how does it influence your attitude towards working with people from a different religious tradition from your own in caring for the Earth?
7. Virginia says that if we ask God to provide safer and cleaner forms of energy, less destructive to His creation than burning fossil fuels, He will. In what ways do you agree or disagree? How does your faith inform your thinking on the growing production and falling costs of solar, wind, and other renewable energy? What role do, or should, people of faith play in the transition to a clean energy economy?
8. Virginia turns personal tragedy into community hope and action. What extreme weather impacts your community most often (e.g. heavy precipitation, flooding, heat waves, drought, wildfire, tropical storms, etc.)? How might you join with your neighbors and other community members and leaders to protect your community and make it more resilient to the increasing threat of climate change?

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