



DISCUSSION GUIDE

A FILM DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction

As an experienced Christian concert promoter and marketing professional who followed God’s call to faith-based films, executive producer Joe Sanders knows both music and movies. His latest, *Beyond Belief* (Intrigue Films, 2026), relates the story of Andy Ellis, a teenage guitarist who gradually realizes that God is speaking to him in a deeply personal way.

Fans of the legendary Christian rock band Petra will especially enjoy the film’s musical connections, including its title, inspired by Petra’s iconic song “Beyond Belief” from the band’s 1990 Gold-certified album.

The film raises meaningful questions about hearing God’s voice, generational perspectives, and the dangers of pursuing worldly priorities over God’s purposes. Whether used for personal reflection or group discussion, *Beyond Belief* provides an opportunity to deepen faith, encourage spiritual growth, and inspire believers to share the hope of the gospel with others.

SEE IT ON THE BIG SCREEN

Beyond Belief arrives in theatres **August 28, 2026**. Find tickets, showtimes, and the latest news—and watch the trailer—at BeyondBeliefMovie.com.

This Discussion Guide was created in partnership with All Pro Pastors International and written by Cheryl Johnston.



SET IN THE 1980s

1985 — a small town, a big dream, and a story set to the music of a generation.

How to Use This Guide

This guide may be used by an individual or with a group. **Have a supply of Bibles available for participants.**

Whether studying individually or as a group (after welcomes and introductions), begin with a prayer. Thank God for filmmakers who create faith-based content, and ask Him to help you learn something new, deepen your understanding of Scripture, and see familiar truths from a fresh perspective.

For group studies, facilitators may wish to prepare a handout of Scripture passages that relate to key scenes in the film. Many relevant verses are referenced throughout this guide. Consider including passages about the prodigal son, biblical men and women who heard God's voice, and other themes that are likely to generate meaningful discussion.

If your group plans to meet over several sessions, consider focusing on one or two topics each time. Possible themes include Hearing God's Voice, Young Believers, Selfless Love, Humility, Temptation, Prayer, Discernment, Obedience, Spiritual Maturity, and Sacrifice. You might also ask participants which topics interest them most and tailor each session accordingly.

Another approach is to divide participants into smaller discussion groups, assigning each group a few scenes from the film and the corresponding questions from this guide. Facilitators may provide a handout with selected questions or invite participants to choose those they find most thought-provoking.

For groups meeting multiple times, you may also rotate discussion topics from session to session. Encourage participants to continue their study between meetings by reading related Scripture passages, exploring the themes further, and listening to Petra's music while reflecting on its lyrics. As their understanding grows, they will likely return with fresh insights and thoughtful questions of their own.

SECTION TWO

Key Themes

Five movements in Andy’s journey — each paired with Scripture, a featured Petra song, and the film’s own timecodes for the scenes that bring the theme to life.

KEY THEME	SCRIPTURE	FEATURED PETRA SONG
01 Hearing God's Voice	John 10:27	Sight Unseen
02 Identity and Purpose	Ephesians 2:10	The Coloring Song
03 Grief, Pain, and Healing	Psalms 34:18	Beyond Belief
04 Music, Influence, and Culture	Romans 12:2	Whole World
05 Redemption and Second Chances	2 Corinthians 5:17	He Came, He Saw, He Conquered

01 KEY THEME Hearing God's Voice

SCRIPTURE

John 10:27

"My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me."

🎵 FEATURED PETRA SONG

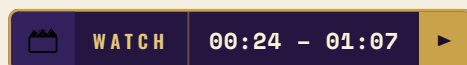
Sight Unseen

▶ [LISTEN ON YOUTUBE](#)

Just as Andy learns to recognize God's leading, Sight Unseen reminds us that following Christ often means trusting Him before we can see where He's leading.

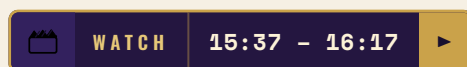
God speaks directly to various figures in the Old Testament, including Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, and Moses. Later, He communicates primarily through His prophets (such as Samuel, Elijah, Isaiah, and Jeremiah) and speaks to leaders like King David and Joshua.

Set in the 1980s, *Beyond Belief* features the music of Petra, which is celebrating its more than 50 years together with a new album: "Hope."



The story begins with a male voice asking, "Have you ever heard the voice of God? I have." It introduces Andy, a teenage guitarist who deeply admires his loving father, Pastor Martin. Martin teaches Andy that God reveals Himself through both Scripture and creation, emphasizing that God wants people to hear His voice.

Tragedy strikes when Martin dies while saving his friend Ronnie's life, leaving Andy to grieve without his father.



Soon afterward, Andy begins hearing a mysterious voice telling him to "Run." Unsure of its source and afraid others will think he is delusional, he keeps the experience to himself as he struggles to understand what God may be calling him to do.



SCENE Pastor Martin — the loving father whose faith first teaches Andy to listen for God.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 01** When have you clearly heard God's voice? Did you share that experience with anyone else? Offer a brief example.
- 02** What other Biblical notables heard the voice of God? *a)* How did they respond? *b)* How would you have responded?
 - ◆ Noah (Build an ark)
 - ◆ Abraham (Travel to an unknown land)
 - ◆ Moses (Receiving the Ten Commandments; leading the Hebrews out of Egypt)
 - ◆ Joshua (Marching around the walls of Jericho)
 - ◆ Samuel (God called him 4 times; Samuel responded: "Speak for your servant is listening.")
- 03** We all think we want to hear God's voice—until we do, and He asks us to do something impossible. Has He ever asked you to do something you thought was impossible?

02 KEY THEME Identity and Purpose

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

🎵 FEATURED PETRA SONG

The Coloring Song

[▶ LISTEN ON YOUTUBE](#)

One of Petra’s most beloved songs reminds us that our identity is found not in the world, but in God’s redeeming work and His purpose for our lives.



SCENE

Chasing the dream — Andy imagines his band, Jericho, on a stage of its own.

**WATCH****19:46 – 21:16**

After his father’s death, Andy dreams of making it big with his band, Jericho, like the band Petra has done. But his life is marked by grief, financial hardship, and uncertainty.

When his cousin Derek destroys his father’s guitar, Andy impulsively takes a replacement from Uncle Leo’s music store, leaving an IOU, but is arrested for theft before Leo later drops the charges. Meanwhile, Andy questions God’s

fairness, struggles to understand his father's faith-driven decisions, and urges his mother to sell the failing church, which his Uncle Leo hopes to replace with a new development.

**SCENE**

A season of grief and hard choices tests who Andy believes himself to be.

**WATCH****22:52 - 24:06****WATCH****26:25 - 27:47**

Throughout these challenges, Andy repeatedly hears a mysterious voice telling him to “Run.” The message appears in unexpected places—a video game, a concert, a magazine headline, and a marathon poster—leaving him confused about its meaning. His grandfather Jake encourages him to mature and take responsibility, while Petra’s announcement of a Battle of the Bands inspires Andy to pursue his musical dreams. As Andy wrestles with loss, faith, and his future, the recurring call to “run” hints that God is leading him toward a greater purpose than success in music alone.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 01** What dream did you once have?
- 02** Have you already discovered who you are in Christ?
- 03** What race has God called you to run?
- 04** Do you feel like you are certain about your purpose in life?
- 05** Do you feel as if you are walking in your purpose?
- 06** How do you feel others see you?

03 KEY THEME

Grief, Pain, and Healing

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 34:18

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

🎵 FEATURED PETRA SONG

Beyond Belief

[▶ LISTEN ON YOUTUBE](#)

Like the film itself, this anthem calls believers to a faith that perseveres beyond what is visible, trusting God through every step of the race—including times of grief, pain, and healing.

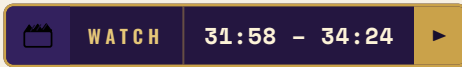
**WATCH****27:53 - 31:07**

Sarah, overwhelmed by financial pressure and the uncertain future of the church, struggles with stress-related chest pains but encourages Andy by giving him his father’s repaired guitar. When Andy reveals he has been hearing a voice telling him to “Run,” Sarah explains that his father believed God speaks in many ways and heard His voice telling him to build a church. She recalls that Martin was a gifted runner before becoming a pastor.

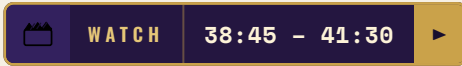


SCENE

Sarah carries the weight of the family’s grief — and a mother’s quiet faith.



Inspired by videos of his father running, training, reading Scripture, and playing guitar, Andy becomes convinced God is calling him to run the Woodstock Marathon, even though its timing conflicts with the Battle of the Bands. Believing completing the race is connected to the band's success, Andy commits to the challenge.



His emotional healing begins when he humbly asks his grandfather for help, admitting that he cannot face the journey on his own.



SCENE Grandpa Jake answers the call — healing begins with humility and help.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 01 What would complete surrender to God's plan look like for your life?
- 02 Recall a time when you or someone you love felt overwhelmed by difficult situations.
- 03 Did you pray with or for that person about their need?
- 04 How did you see God move in that situation?

04 KEY THEME

Music, Influence, and Culture

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

🎵 FEATURED PETRA SONG

Whole World

[▶ LISTEN ON YOUTUBE](#)

The gospel is meant to be shared from one generation to the next. As older believers invest in younger ones, God’s faithfulness continues to reach the whole world.

The film contrasts two father figures: Uncle Leo, who alienates his son Derek with a harsh, success-driven approach, and Grandpa Jake, who challenges Andy with discipline, encouragement, and wisdom. While Leo believes in “victory at all costs” and dismisses Derek’s passion for music, Jake teaches Andy that perseverance, character, and faith are essential to finishing life’s race.



SCENE Uncle Leo — ambition in shadow, the father figure who measures worth by winning.

With only 45 days to prepare for a marathon, Jake puts Andy through rigorous physical and mental training, emphasizing discipline, endurance, and spiritual growth by having him read 2 Timothy daily.



SCENE Forty-five days to the finish line — Jake trains Andy in body, mind, and spirit.



WATCH

55:21 - 57:41



As Andy grows stronger through demanding workouts, Jake reminds him that his late father would be proud of his progress. Despite his improvement, Andy continues to wrestle with grief and questions why God allows good people to suffer, revealing the spiritual struggle at the heart of his journey.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 01** Describe a few traits of your own earthly father. Were you encouraged or discouraged by those?
- 02** List a few traits that you have witnessed your Heavenly Father demonstrate.
- 03** Name someone in your life who you believe is trying to be a good example to the younger generation. Please pray for them now.
- 04** Which Scripture passages has God used to redirect your path?

05 KEY THEME

Redemption and Second Chances

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:17

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

🎵 FEATURED PETRA SONG

He Came, He Saw, He Conquered

[▶ LISTEN ON YOUTUBE](#)

This triumphant declaration celebrates Christ’s victory over sin and death—the foundation of the redemption and hope found throughout Beyond Belief.

Sarah, Leo, and Andy begin to heal through forgiveness as old wounds and misunderstandings are resolved. Burdened by grief, guilt, and the pressure to sell the church, Sarah struggles emotionally and physically, while Andy wrestles with anger toward God after his father’s death.

**WATCH****1:08:00 – 1:11:57**

Guided by mysterious prompts to “run,” Andy ultimately saves his mother’s life by getting her to the hospital, where he learns how his father’s sacrifice positively changed another family’s future.



SCENE

The man Martin died to save — one sacrifice, a family’s future rewritten.

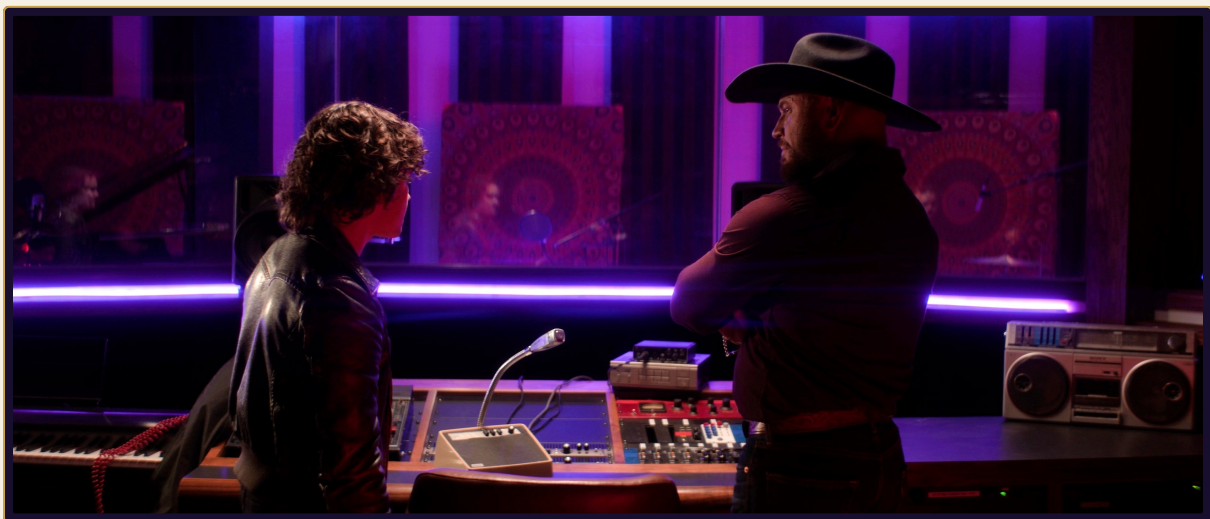
As the Battle of the Bands approaches, conflicts continue when Derek sabotages the competition, Andy is briefly jailed over the stolen guitar, and Leo confronts his own failures as a father. After Andy and Ronnie forgive each other, Andy chooses to complete a marathon despite the odds.



He finishes the race, experiences a powerful vision of his father encouraging him, and then saves Derek from a fatal accident. Moved by these events, Leo apologizes to Andy, Derek, and Martin's memory.



Andy arrives just in time for Jericho to perform, and the band wins the contest. In the end, Leo pays off the church's mortgage, the family celebrates together in reconciliation, Grandfather Jake finds renewed faith through Martin's recorded sermons, and the film closes with Petra performing "Beyond Belief" at the family's church—emphasizing themes of faith, redemption, forgiveness, and God's faithfulness.



SCENE Where the music lives — the sound that carries the story from grief to grace.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 01 Every family deals with conflicts, and everyone requires forgiveness. Briefly share a situation you've dealt with.
- 02 Have you ever been able to help another individual or family with their conflicts?
- 03 Which Scripture verse has been most helpful to you in this regard?
- 04 Do you think you have completely surrendered your life to Christ? If so, praise God. If not, please ask another believer to pray with you.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Conclusion

Read **2 Timothy 4:7** and ask God if you are on the path to say about your life:

2 Timothy 4:7

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Read **Galatians 6:9** to be encouraged:

Galatians 6:9

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Read **Philippians 1:6** to maintain your determination, with God’s help, to **RUN** and **OBEY**:

Philippians 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Run the Race. Keep the Faith.

BEYOND BELIEF

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN ROCK 'N' ROLL FILM, SET IN THE 1980S · FEATURING THE MUSIC OF PETRA
IN THEATRES AUGUST 28, 2026 · AN INTRIGUE FILMS PRODUCTION · ICONIC RELEASING



OUR MINISTRY PARTNER

About All Pro Pastors International

As one of the largest networks of Pastors throughout the world, All Pro Pastors International includes Pastors from all denominations, races, and cultures, with a heart for unity and cooperation. The Champions Table is the foundation of the ministry where Pastors sharpen Pastors. The Pastors Prayer Center is our powerhouse where we pray for and with ministers everyday throughout America and the world.

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