

Discussion Questions for *Chariots of Fire*

Some of the major characters to watch for: Eric Liddle, Harold Abrahams, Sam Mussabini, Jennie Liddle, Sybil Gordon (Harold's girlfriend), Andrew Lindsey

1. Early in the film, the Reverend J.D. Liddle advises Eric: "Eric, you are the proud possessor of many gifts. It is your sacred duty to put them to good use. You can praise the Lord by peeling a spud if you peel it to perfection. Don't compromise. Compromise is the language of the devil. Run in God's name and let the world stand back in wonder." Later, we hear the echo of this theology as Eric says to his sister Jennie, who is skeptical of the value of athletics: "Jennie, you've got to understand. I believe God made me for a purpose—for China—but He also made me fast. And when I run I feel His pleasure. To give it up would be to hold him in contempt ... To win is to honor Him."

How might this theological perspective apply in your own life and to your future pursuits?

2. In the latter half of the film, Harold Abrahams says: "Contentment? I'm 24 and I've never known it. I'm forever in pursuit and I don't know what I'm chasing." We get a clue about what he's chasing soon thereafter when he says he has "ten lonely seconds to justify my whole existence." This stands in sharp contrast to the contentment and worldview of Eric Liddle. What might Liddle on topics like contentment and justifying his existence and what might we learn from that?
3. Eric Liddle, against significant pressure, insists on not running in the Olympics on a Sunday. What do you think about his theology and his principled stand?

