Viewing Guide

1. Describe the images at the beginning of the film. What thoughts do they evoke?

2. What is the theme of President Kennedy's speech on the radio?

3. Describe the scene before the trial. Did anything in particular surprise you?

4. Why does the DA's office start looking into the Evers case again in 1989? What was the stated reason? The real reason?

5. Describe the circumstances surrounding the first two trials of Beckwith according to Mrs. Evers and the SCLC?

6. Why is DeLaughter's wife upset with his decision to pursue the case?

7. What problem does DeLaughter keep running into when he talks to the former witnesses?

8. What does the vandalizing of Delaughter's car say about society?

9. "This country may be legally segregated but emotionally we'll always be segregated." Respond to this quote.

10. Why is the former FBI informant afraid to testify in the case?

11. Why did the DA's office want to bring on another prosecutor in the Evers case.

12. Why was the official court transcript of the original case given over by Mrs. Evers a turning point in the case?

13. Describe the events of the case that unfolded following the discovery of the transcripts.

14. Why does Medgar Evers brother not want to attend the trial?

15. "No matter how many civil rights laws you pass, you'll never be able to legislate how people think." Respond to this quote.

16. Describe the proceedings of the trial.

17. "You'll never get 12 people to convict me of killing a [black man] in the State of Mississippi." Respond to this quote. What does it show?

18. How does the prosecution and conviction of de la Beckwith relate to Reverend King’s vision for the United States?

19. Why is it to retry the case and bring de la Beckwith to justice, even if justice had been delayed far too long?

Discussion Questions

1. Evidence of racism. Give examples from the movie.
2. What stereotypes did you see in the movie? Give specific examples.
3. You saw segregation in the movie. Give examples of both *de jure* and *de facto* segregation.
4. Even many years after the passage of the Civil Rights legislation of the 1960s, we saw institutionalized discrimination. What is this and give examples from the movie as evidence.
5. Is what happened to Medger Evers a hate crime? Explain.