

faith conversation guide

opening  
july  
23



# WARNING

*the church*

The most powerful force on the planet: ~~nuclear weapons.~~

From the people who brought you "An Inconvenient Truth," a film about our nuclear threat.

# COUNTDOWN TO ZEROØ

**DEMAND ZERO.**



dear friend:

You may never have thought about nuclear weapons and your Christian faith before. After all, the Bomb can seem like an issue far removed from the life of discipleship. But since the beginning of the atomic age, Christian leaders from Karl Barth to Pope John Paul II to Billy Graham and John Stott have recognized the indiscriminate and unmatched destructive power of nuclear weapons as a challenge to the Lord of life. Put simply, if you care about core biblical beliefs like the defense of human life (Gen. 9:6), stewardship of creation (Gen. 1:28), care for the poor (Matthew 25:31-46), and justice (Romans 13:1-7), you need to care about nuclear weapons.

Moreover, *Countdown to Zero* reminds us that nuclear weapons are not simply yesterday's problem. In fact, nuclear terrorism threatens everything earthly that we hold dear. *Countdown* is a terrifying movie. That's one reason why I think this is fundamentally a film for our time. Our people are afraid: of terrorism from abroad and economic insecurity at home, for the retirement they hope for and the world they want to leave to their children. This fear is a faith problem, because fear and love are biblical opposites. Where one thrives, the other suffers (1 John 4:18). And where loveless fear prevails, we "abide in death" (1 John 3:14).

So, I encourage you to use this movie for all it's worth. Use *Countdown to Zero* to confront the fear your people may not even know they feel. Confront it with the confidence of our Christian confession: that the crucified Jesus is Lord and that to all who believe he offers eternal life. And watch as lives are transformed into the "spirit of power" (2 Timothy 1:7) that is the birthright of all who trust that the love of God the Father is revealed by the Spirit in the saving death and life-giving resurrection of the Son.

Finally, let me offer a quick reassurance about this film, because many will see its topic and think it must be partisan propaganda. Nothing could be further from the truth. The analysis of the

film is sound, reasoned, and balanced. And its suggested prescription—work toward a world free of nuclear weapons—has the support of living legends on both the conservative and liberal sides. As a result, this film may raise more questions than it offers answers. That's fine: nuclear security isn't an issue of left and right, but right and wrong.

I hope you'll engage this film, and engage others with it. Here are four simple ideas:

1

Join Countdown to Zero's social action campaign by visiting: [www.takepart.com/zero](http://www.takepart.com/zero) or by texting ZERO to 77177.

2

Examine a Christian perspective on nuclear weapons at the Two Futures Project ([twofuturesproject.org](http://twofuturesproject.org))

3


Contact Different Drummer (twitter: [@drumtweets](https://twitter.com/drumtweets) or email: [emc@differentdrummer.com](mailto:emc@differentdrummer.com)) to attend an advanced screening of the movie or request a private showing for your church or group.

4

Organize a group outing when Countdown to Zero comes to theaters (July 23 in select markets), and consider using the discussion questions attached for a post-screening conversation. You can find five clips that correspond with the questions at: [www.wingclips.com/countdown-to-zero](http://www.wingclips.com/countdown-to-zero).

Thank you for taking a courageous step, and may God bless your ministry.

Yours in Christ,



**Rev. Tyler Wigg-Stevenson**  
Founder and Director, Two Futures Project

# countdown to conversation

FIND THE FOLLOWING COUNTDOWN TO ZERO CLIPS AT  
[www.wingclips.com/countdown-to-zero](http://www.wingclips.com/countdown-to-zero)

## The effects of a nuclear bomb

Only two nuclear weapons have ever been used — and most people today don't have any idea about how destructive they really are. How does your Christian faith affect the way you react to the description of a nuclear bomb? The video talks about a repeal of civil liberties after a nuclear attack. What other long-term consequences can you think of?

## Steps to improve nuclear security

Learn how nuclear material can be secured, how we can reduce the risk of accidents — and why getting to zero is essential to preventing nuclear terrorism. Given the partisanship in politics today, how can American Christians be a force for unity and cooperation on the critical steps toward nuclear security?

## The danger of nuclear smuggling

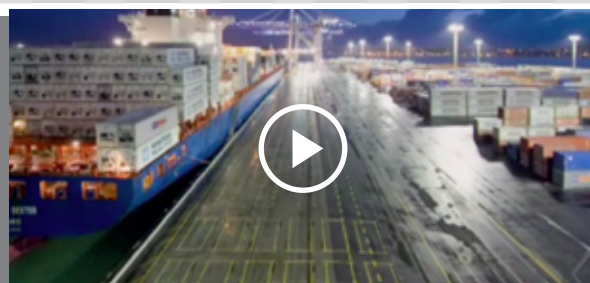
Unfortunately, we can't count on technology to prevent the threat of nuclear terrorism. How did it make you feel to learn about how vulnerable we are to nuclear smuggling? How important do you think it is to secure loose nuclear material worldwide — preventing nuclear smuggling before it begins?

## How likely is a nuclear attack?

Most people don't realize that the threat of nuclear attack is real — and increasing. Before watching Countdown, how concerned were you about nuclear attack? Did the movie affect your viewpoint?

## Who has nuclear weapons?

Can you name the countries that have nuclear weapons today? Talk as a group about two different futures: a world with many more nuclear nations, or a world in which the number is moving downward toward zero. As a Christian, which one do you find more compelling?



many voices

one vision



*"This film is an extraordinary event that every pastor, teacher and layman should regard as a 'must see.' It will help every evangelical to recover our sense of indignation about the prospects of nuclear terrorism and to resolve to join others to do something about it."*

—REV. RICHARD CIZIK

## What do these church leaders share in common?

They want to eliminate nuclear weapons. Add your voice. Join them today.



**POPE JOHN PAUL II**



**ROB BELL**



**JOEL HUNTER**



**BILLY GRAHAM**



**TONY CAMPOLO**



**BILL HYBELS**



**JOHN STOTT**



**ANDY CROUCH**



**DAVID NEFF**



**LEITH ANDERSON**



**MARGARET FEINBERG**



**CAMERON STRANG**



**CHUCK COLSON**



**AMBASSADOR  
TONY HALL**



**JIM WALLIS**

## take action

**1**

### PETITION YOUR SENATOR AT

<http://thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/436/029/495>

by signing on the New START (Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty)

**2**

### JOIN COUNTDOWN TO ZERO'S SOCIAL ACTION CAMPAIGN

by visiting: [www.takepart.com/zero](http://www.takepart.com/zero) or by texting ZERO to 77177

**3**

### APPLY FOR A PLOUGHSHARES FOUNDATION GRANT

to support Countdown to Zero activities to mobilize audiences to cities with screenings. Apply at: [www.ploughshares.org/our-impact/grants/apply-grant](http://www.ploughshares.org/our-impact/grants/apply-grant)

## more resources

THE TWO FUTURES PROJECT:

[www.twofuturesproject.org](http://www.twofuturesproject.org)

GLOBAL ZERO:

[www.globalzero.org](http://www.globalzero.org)

PARTICIPANT MEDIA'S TAKE PART:

[www.takepart.com/zero](http://www.takepart.com/zero)

## group sales

CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION:

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