

QUESTIONS ON ULEE'S GOLD
Read Psalm 139

1. What is the main theme of this film?
2. Make a list of some of the significant subjects this film touches upon.
3. What are Ulee's strengths and his weaknesses?
4. How did Ulee's war experiences contribute to the way that he functioned in society?
5. To what extent, if any, was the dysfunctionality of Ulee's family his responsibility? Was he right to raise his grandchildren? What were his options?
6. Was Ulee's sense of shame regarding his daughter-in-law appropriate or inappropriate? How did his opinion of her shape the way that he raised his grandchildren?
7. Guilt: 'I made a mistake' (emphasis on behavior & facts); Shame: 'I am a mistake' (emphasis on being). Analyze Ulee in terms of these definitions. Define grace (as used biblically, esp in Rom).
8. What issues of personal boundaries do you think were violated in the film? (give some examples)
9. From whatever you know of alcohol and drug addictions, do the scenes in this movie involving Helen ring true? (Paranoia, euphoria, extreme highs and lows, no sense of time)
10. What is the significance of Penny's description of the picture she made for her mom?
11. How can the keeping of secrets destroy an individual or family?
Gen 38:6-26, Joshua 7:1-13, Job 34:22-23, Ps. 44:20-21, Eccles. 12:14, Rom 2:16, 1Cor. 4:5
12. What do you make of Connie's statement toward the end of the film: "You're almost a good man, Ulee Jackson, but you try too hard?"
13. If Ulee had been able to overcome his extreme passion for privacy, where could he have gone for help and support (agencies, etc)? Would our church help a person like Ulee? What about his grandchildren, son, daughter in law? What could we offer to each?
14. How does a church draw the line in delineating what it can and cannot do to help a family like this? In other words: at what point does a pastor say "Beyond this point you need professional help?"
15. [Optional] Apply the hero model to this film.