

Deacons for Defense

(99 minutes, scene selections, 2 cast interviews)

Bogalusa, Louisiana (1932 flashback + 1965)

- 1) What kind of fear is taught to the children in this film? Why?
- 2) What kinds of problems do the civil rights lawyers want to fix?
- 3) What kind of support do the lawyers get?
- 4) What methods of intimidation are used against those fighting for change?
- 5) Why are these methods effective?
- 6) What does Marcus's father say on his deathbed? Why is it important?
- 7) What split happens between Marcus and his daughter and what realization does he finally make?
- 8) What place in the community is a safe place for people to meet and talk?
- 9) Where did the people learn the skills to protect their community?
- 10) What difference in beliefs is there between the Deacons and the civil rights lawyers?
- 11) What problems exist in the one factory that provides most of the jobs in Bogalusa?
- 12) What happens to make the factory change its policies?
- 13) Why does the federal government hesitate to help when they hear there may be violence?
- 14) Why does the Klan target the civil rights lawyers?
- 15) What does the Klan hope to achieve by killing Marcus?
- 16) Why does Martin Luther King's group refuse to help the Deacons?
- 17) How do the courts help?
- 18) What do you think the civil rights lawyers do after they leave Bogalusa?
- 19) What lesson has Marcus learned when he burns down the barn?
- 20) What lesson does he teach his children? How does he teach them?