



After watching the movie, please take some time to discuss the following questions. Please try to keep your answers brief so that everyone has a turn to share their thoughts. It's okay if you don't have time to get through all the questions.

Coping With Fear And Loss

1. At the beginning of the film Brendan's uncle, Abbot Cellach, is afraid that Vikings are going to attack and destroy the Abbey of Kells. He copes with this fear by pouring all of his time and energy into building a giant wall around the village. How do you feel about his reaction? What would you do if you were in his situation?
2. Like other Christian monasteries in Britain and Ireland under threat from Vikings during the early seventh century, the Abbey of Kells contained religious books, art and treasures. What books, art and 'treasures' are precious to you? Which would you want to keep safe?

Pagan & Christian Unity

3. In many movies that depict Christian and Pagan characters (especially in a historical context), they are often portrayed as enemies. In this film, a young Christian monk, Brendan, befriends a fey-folk shapeshifter named Aisling. Together, they celebrate the beauty of the forest, as well as the artwork of the abbey. They work to protect the spirits of the forest as well as the sacred books of the Christian faith. Many Pagans have had a negative experience or two with Christian peers. What could you do in your life to encourage unity and compassion for our Christian neighbors?
4. In the Book of Kells, there are many illustrations that are inspired by the natural world or by Pagan folktales. Are there any aspects of Christianity that inspire or influence your Earth-centered practices? Are there any Christian practices that you would like to learn more about?

The Power Of Art

5. The Book of Kells is an illuminated Bible manuscript, made up of versions of the gospels taken from a few early renderings of the religion's holy book. The manuscript, named for the abbey in County Meath, Ireland, where it lay for centuries, is a stunningly preserved masterwork of western calligraphy, rich with miniature illustrations, intricate drop capitals, and full-color illustrations of key scenes from the life of Christ, with gold leaf and the deep symbolism of the early Christian church in Ireland. A LOT of work and detail went into creating this sacred book. Do you believe that time and energy make something more sacred? Why or why not?

6. It's common for Pagans to create their own sacred books to record meditations, rituals, art, and even personal stories. Why do you think this is such an important practice for Pagans?

7. The artwork in this animation is very different compared to American "cartoons", and was meant to reflect the artwork used in manuscripts, as well as elements of the natural world. Have there been any moments in your life when nature or artwork have inspired a sense of wonder or inspiration?

8. Brother Aiden, wants only to turn darkness into light the best way he knows how: by making their Bible into objects of beauty and wonder through the alchemy of art. Can you think of any ways that you can turn this dark period in your life into something beautiful or sacred?

9. The Book of Kells still exists to this day at the Trinity College Library in Dublin, Ireland. What sacred items or books would you like to protect and pass down to others in the future?



This discussion guide was created by Tree of Knowledge Community Coven for the women of Madison Correctional Facility and encourages personal reflection around the topics of myths, culture, and theology. For more Pagan prison ministry resources, please contact support@treeofknowledgeindiana.com