Ground Zero in Manhattan has become a site of pilgrimage. Thousands of people visit the site, looking for consolation as they question the events of Sept. 11. There is a profound quiet to their meditations. Starting here, FRONTLINE sets out on a quest to find out how peoples' beliefs -- and unbelief -- has been challenged, and how they are coping with difficult questions of good and evil, the face of God, and the potential for darkness within religion itself.

Note: This activity is not designed to promote nor deny any religious ideology, but instead help you understand the events following the attacks. / GRAPHIC CONTENT

Directions: As you watch the program, answer the questions below.

**Act 1 – September 11**

- What made September 11th different from other dark nights, according to the narrator?
- What were the experiences like of people inside the buildings and those watching live or on television?
- When did the “drama of faith and doubt” begin? / What do you think went through the minds of those who jumped?
Act 2 – The Face of God

• In listening to the interviews in this section, some people felt abandoned by God that day, and in the days that followed, while others felt his presence – and the presence of their loved ones. Cite some examples.

• How did people’s feelings about God change?

• What did fireman BERNIE HEERAN think God was doing that day?

• What does Rabbi BRAD HIRSCHFIELD, Orthodox Rabbi have to say about the concept of “God’s plan” as some people in the film have spoken of? What is your feeling about his statement?

• What was the effect on atheists? How was their belief systems also challenged?

• September 11th, saw what many believe, was tangible proof of evil. On the other hand, the messages left on scores of answering machines seem also to be equal proof of goodness. Do you agree? Explain.

Act 3 – The Face of Evil

• What was so interesting about he way President Bush used the word “evil” and “evildoer” - What national conversation did it spark?

• What are the psychological explanations of “evil?” / What are the spiritual explanations of “evil?”

• Do you see “evil” more in psychological terms or spiritual terms or both?

• Summarize how different people featured in this section view “evil.”
Act 4 – The Face of Religion

• Rabbi BRAD HIRSCHFIELD, Orthodox Rabbi, suggests that violence and peace are both traditions within religion. Do you agree? How are these concepts to be balanced, do you think?

• What does KANAN MAKIYA believe is a frightening new thing in the Arab world?

• Many would argue that religion was used as a catalyst for violence on 9/11. How do the speakers in the program explain this “dark” side of tradition?

• When jihadism and martyrdom are considered acts of worship – what are the implications? What, according to KANAN MAKIYA is the challenge now facing Muslims?

• What controversy faced Reverend DAVID BENKE, Lutheran Minister? How do you feel about the way he was treated after the service at Yankee Stadium?

• How does religion help people cope (and deal with the unexplainable) in the face of great loss?

Act 5 – Ground Zero

• How was the behavior of people at ground zero expressive of the best qualities involved with being human? Was it a demonstration of spirituality? Explain your beliefs about this.

• After 9/11 how did people re-examine their lives and values. Give examples.

• The memorial service at ground zero was one of healing. How did you feel listening to the words and music of RENEE FLEMING, Opera Singer? In unit one of this course, you witnessed many tragic sights. Did her reflections and music help you heal?
“One of the most impossible and memorable images of that day were people leaping out of the windows, being forced out by the fire behind them, driving them, herding them out the windows. I keep coming back to his hand in her hand, nestled in each other with such extraordinary, ordinary, naked love. It's the most powerful prayer I can imagine, the most eloquent, the most graceful. It's everything we're capable of against horror and loss and tragedy.”

JOEL MEYEROWITZ and BRIAN DOYLE

How is the above story an illustration of “goodness” in the face of “evil?”
What other acts on 9/11 are illustrations of this?
Does this help you gain perspective on how to look at the 9/11 attacks?
Explain your answers below...

**FINAL QUESTIONS**

This program featured many people expressing their views about God and faith. Are there any memorable statements you agreed with? Disagreed with?

If the producers of the film interviewed you, what comments would you make about “faith and doubt” at ground zero, base on your own personal beliefs?