



FINDING FAITH: Small Group Bible Study inspired by the movie “A Horse Called Bear”

INTRODUCTION

A Horse Called Bear centers on 17-year-old Ethan, who is reeling from the sudden death of his mother and burdened by misplaced guilt. His life is upended by the discovery of his mother's secret—a horse named Bear—leading him on a cross-country journey to live with his estranged grandfather, Otto. As Ethan forms a bond with the horse, the film explores his healing from grief, the softening of his grandfather's heart, and the interconnected lives of those around them. The story highlights the themes of forgiveness, redemption, and the ultimate truth that God has a plan for us, even when we can't see it.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. FINDING HEALING FROM GUILT AND GRIEF

- Ethan struggles with the belief that he is to blame for his mother's death because they argued on the day she died. How does the movie portray the burden of guilt, and how does his relationship with the horse, Bear, act as a catalyst for his healing and help him come to terms with his grief?
- Read Psalm 34:18. This verse says the Lord is close to the brokenhearted. How does this passage speak to Ethan's grief? How can we offer comfort and support to those who are suffering from guilt and loss, pointing them to the truth of God's grace and forgiveness?



2. THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

- The film highlights different forms of forgiveness: Ethan must forgive himself, his grandfather Otto must soften his hardened heart, and the children must forgive the bully and his father. How does the movie suggest that forgiveness is not just an emotional act, but a crucial step toward healing and reconciliation?

- Read Colossians 3:13. This verse instructs us to "forgive as the Lord forgave you." How can a deep understanding of God's forgiveness for us empower us to forgive others, even those who have hurt us deeply?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. TRUSTING IN GOD'S PLAN



- The film's core message is that God has a plan, even when we don't know it. Ethan's journey, which begins in tragedy, leads him to a newfound purpose and a deeper connection to his family. How do the various plot lines of Ethan, Otto, and the children demonstrate this theme?

Read Jeremiah 29:11. This well-known verse reminds us that God's plans are for our welfare, not for evil. How does the story's resolution reflect this promise? How can we learn to trust in God's plan, even when our present circumstances are painful and confusing?

4. THE EXAMPLE OF A CHILDLIKE FAITH

- The children in the film demonstrate a simple, powerful faith by applying the Golden Rule and praying for the neighborhood bully and his father. What does their example teach the adults in the movie and us about the nature of pure faith?

- Read Matthew 18:3-4. Jesus tells us we must become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven. What qualities of childlike faith, such as simplicity, trust, and a lack of pride, are shown by the children in the film? How can we cultivate a more childlike faith in our own lives?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Reflect on a time in your life when you felt lost or guilty. How did you find your way back?

How can you cultivate a deeper trust in God's plan for your life, even when the path is unclear?



PRAYER

Close the Bible study with a time of prayer, for healing from past hurts and for the grace to forgive.

Pray for a heart that trusts in God's plan, even in the midst of uncertainty, and for the wisdom to see how God is at work in our lives..



CONCLUSION

Like Ethan, we are all on a journey of healing and discovery. The film encourages us to confront our pain and misplaced guilt, to trust in God's ultimate plan, and to embrace the transformative power of forgiveness and love. Ultimately, it shows us that even in our darkest moments, God can use simple things, like a horse, to bring about profound healing and redemption.