



FINDING FAITH: Small Group Bible Study inspired the movie by "Courageous Love"

INTRODUCTION

Peace River is a faith-based drama that follows Casey Shane, a New Mexico rancher whose life is defined by faith, family, and "the cowboy way." Raised with strong Christian values by his grandfather, Casey's life takes a turn after a tragic military incident leaves him with severe PTSD and deep-seated guilt. He returns home a broken man, alienated from his faith and loved ones. The film chronicles his painful journey of confronting his past mistakes, seeking forgiveness from those he has wronged, and ultimately finding healing and redemption by returning to God and the values of his grandfather.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. THE COWBOY WAY: FAITH AND CHARACTER

- The film connects "the cowboy way"—a strong work ethic, loyalty, and integrity—to a deep Christian faith. How does Casey's grandfather, Bo, personify this connection, and what happens to Casey's character when he abandons these values?

- Read Proverbs 20:11. This verse suggests that even a child is known by their actions. What does it mean for a person's character to be an outward sign of their inner state? How does Casey's abandonment of the "cowboy way" manifest in his actions, and what is the ultimate result of that departure?



2. THE WEIGHT OF SIN AND GUILT

- Casey's struggles stem from two traumatic events: his infidelity to Maria and the tragic deaths of his Special Forces team. How does the movie portray the corrosive effect of unconfessed sin and unaddressed guilt on a person's life, faith, and relationships?

- Read Psalm 32:3-5. How does this passage articulate the physical and spiritual distress of an unforgiven heart? In what ways does Casey's struggle with alcohol and isolation reflect the biblical truth that confession is essential for peace and healing?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION



- Casey's journey is a difficult path of seeking forgiveness, both from Maria and the families of his fallen comrades. The film suggests that this process is vital for his healing. What does this reveal about the nature of true forgiveness and the path to reconciliation?

- Read Colossians 3:13. How does this verse instruct us to forgive others just as Christ has forgiven us? What does Casey's act of seeking forgiveness reveal about the humility required to restore a broken relationship and the freedom that comes with releasing guilt?

4. REDEMPTION IN CHRIST ALONE

- Casey's ultimate redemption comes not from his own efforts, but from a decision to return to God with a renewed faith. How does the film's message align with the core Christian belief that we are saved and healed by grace, not by works?

- Read Ephesians 2:8-9. This passage teaches that we are saved by grace through faith. How does Casey's journey from a broken man to a man of renewed purpose illustrate this truth? What does it mean to find a new purpose through faith, and how does this contrast with finding it through personal achievement or striving?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Reflect on a time when guilt or past mistakes weighed heavily on you. How did you confront it?

Consider a relationship in your life that needs healing. How can you apply the principles of forgiveness, humility, and trust in God's grace to that situation?



PRAYER

Close the Bible study with a time of prayer, or those who are struggling with guilt or a broken past.

Pray for the courage to seek and grant forgiveness and for a renewed understanding that our healing and purpose come from God alone.



CONCLUSION

Like Casey in Peace River, our lives are filled with choices that either draw us closer to God or pull us away. The film encourages us to confront our past with courage, to seek forgiveness, and to find our ultimate peace and purpose not in our own strength, but in returning to a loving God who offers complete redemption.