



FINDING FAITH: Small Group Bible Study inspired by the movie "Return to the Hiding Place"

INTRODUCTION

Return to the Hiding Place (2013) is a powerful film telling the true story of Hans Poley and the young people of the Dutch Resistance. After publicly declaring his allegiance to Jesus Christ over Hitler, Hans becomes a fugitive and is hidden by the Ten Boom family. From there, he and his friends form a secret army of student-led resisters. The film follows their daring missions—from hiding Jewish people and distributing illegal materials to carrying out Gestapo hijacks. The story explores the profound moral and spiritual challenges of Christian resistance against tyranny, demonstrating how faith motivated these young heroes to risk their lives to save others.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. ALLEGIANCE TO THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

- When a Nazi commander demands the allegiance of his colleague, Hans Poley defiantly declares his allegiance to Jesus Christ. How does this act of public defiance against a tyrannical government serve as the foundational theme of the film?
- Read Acts 5:17-32. These verses teach that no one can serve two masters and that we must obey God rather than men. How did the young resisters' actions embody this biblical principle in a life-or-death situation? What "masters" or authorities in our own lives might challenge our ultimate allegiance to Christ?



2. THE MORAL DILEMMA OF RESISTANCE

- The young Christians in the film are forced to grapple with complex moral questions: Is it right to lie, steal, or kill to save lives? How does the movie portray the tension between God's commandments and the demands of Christian love in extraordinary circumstances?
- Read Romans 12:21 and Romans 13:1-7. How do these passages instruct Christians to act in a world with imperfect governments? How does the film illustrate this?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. FAITH IN THE FACE OF PERSECUTION



- The young resisters operate in constant danger, knowing that capture means torture and death. The film reveals their faith to be their central motivating factor. What does their willingness to suffer for the sake of others reveal about the nature of their faith?
- Read 1 Peter 2:13-21. Peter writes that we are to submit to authority yet called to suffer for doing good. How does the faith and courage of Hans and his friends exemplify this? What does their story teach us about persevering in our own faith, even when faced with fear or potential loss?

4. SACRIFICIAL LOVE

- The climax of the film revolves around the rescue of an entire orphanage of Jewish children, a mission that requires the students to risk everything. This act of sacrificial love is a central theme of the movie.
- Read John 15:13. Jesus says there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. How do the actions of the young resistance fighters fulfill this command? How does their willingness to put their lives on the line for others illustrate the kind of radical, sacrificial love that the gospel calls us to?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Consider a time in your life when you faced a difficult choice between doing what was easy and doing what was right. How did your faith guide you? How can the courageous example of the young Dutch resisters inspire you to stand up for what is right in your own life, even when it is difficult?



PRAYER

Close the Bible study with a time of prayer, for the strength and courage to stand firm in our faith in the face of modern-day challenges.

Pray for the persecuted church around the world, that they would be protected and that their witness would continue to shine brightly.



CONCLUSION

Return to the Hiding Place is a powerful reminder that our faith is not passive but calls us to action, even at great personal risk. The film encourages us to be like Hans Poley and his friends: to place our allegiance in Christ alone and to live a life of courageous, sacrificial love that honors God and serves others, no matter the cost.

