



FINDING FAITH: Small Group Bible Study inspired by the movie “Jackson’s Run”

INTRODUCTION

Jackson's Run is a faith-based drama centered on Jackson Stone, a troubled, rebellious teenager battling a life-threatening illness. Angry at the world and his strained family, Jackson is spiraling toward self-destruction. His life takes a critical turn when a court-ordered community service assignment connects him with a compassionate pastor and an unlikely friend, Natan, at a homeless shelter. The film chronicles Jackson's rites of passage, testing his nascent faith when Natan is revealed to be his estranged biological father. The story ultimately explores the agonizing but necessary path of forgiveness, reconciliation, and the possibility of redemption in the face of suffering and betrayal.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. BLAMING GOD IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

- Jackson is angry at the world and blames God for the suffering caused by his illness and broken home life. How does the film portray the pain and isolation that come from harboring deep resentment and anger toward God?
- Read Job 1:21-22 and James 1:17. How do these verses challenge Jackson's assumption that God is responsible for his misfortunes? What does the Bible teach about finding faith and trust in God's goodness, even when we don't understand the reasons for our suffering?



2. REDEMPTION THROUGH COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

- Jackson's turning point begins with forced community service at a homeless shelter, which is transformed into an opportunity for grace by Pastor Daniels. How does serving others in a difficult environment initiate Jackson's transformation from a self-destructive outcast to a young man beginning to find faith?

Read Matthew 25:40. How does this apply to the work at the homeless shelter? What does Jackson's experience suggest about the healing power of turning our focus outward to the needs of others?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. THE BURDEN OF UNFORGIVENESS



- Jackson harbors deep resentment toward his absent father, a resentment compounded by the revelation of his identity. How does the movie show that unforgiveness is a heavier burden on the person holding the anger than on the one who caused the offense?
- Read Ephesians 4:31-32. This passage instructs us to "be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." What is the biblical motivation for forgiveness, and why is it essential for Jackson's healing and redemption?

4. THE FATHER'S RESTORATION

- The relationship between Jackson and Natan (Nick) is deeply broken by abandonment and betrayal. What does the healing of this earthly father-son relationship symbolize about finding reconciliation with our Heavenly Father?

- Read Romans 8:15 and Luke 15:20. How do these passages describe God's desire for reconciliation with His children? What does it mean for Jackson to move from seeing his father as an enemy to seeing him as a man in need of grace, and how does this reflect the change in our relationship with God through salvation?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Reflect on a time when you blamed God or others for your pain. How did you move past that anger?

Consider the hardest person in your life to forgive. How can the ultimate example of God's forgiveness, as shown in the cross, empower you to forgive that person this week?



PRAYER

Close the Bible study with a time of prayer, for those struggling with chronic illness, broken homes, and the heavy burden of unforgiveness.

Pray for the grace and courage to surrender their anger to God and embrace the path of reconciliation and redemption.



CONCLUSION

Jackson's Run ultimately teaches that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace. Even when faced with profound suffering and deep betrayal, the difficult path of faith, forgiveness, and surrender is the only way to find true peace and the complete redemption that God offers.

