



FINDING FAITH: Small Group Bible Study inspired by the movie "Bringing Up Bobby"

INTRODUCTION

Bringing Up Bobby (2009) is a faith-based family comedy centered on the orphaned Wyler siblings who reunite at their childhood home to settle their parents' will. Amidst family squabbles and comedic chaos, the central plot follows 15-year-old Bobby, the youngest brother, as he confronts a major identity crisis. Challenged by his eldest brother, James, Bobby must stop avoiding the big questions and make a definitive choice about his personal and spiritual identity, ultimately realizing that true direction is found in embracing his Christian faith and purpose.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. FINDING IDENTITY IN FAITH

- Bobby is at a critical stage of identity formation, struggling to figure out who he is and what he truly believes. How does the film suggest that a strong personal identity must be rooted in Christian faith rather than in peer approval or external circumstances?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20. These verses speak of a new identity in Christ. How does the film portray the difference between the "classic teenage identity crisis" and the clarity found in realizing one's identity as a new creation in Christ?



2. THE ENDURING BOND OF FAMILY

- How does the shared tragedy and the resolution of the will force the siblings to confront their need for unity and forgiveness?
- Read Ephesians 4:32 and Psalm 133:1. What does the film teach about the importance of overlooking differences and choosing grace to maintain family bonds? How does the responsibility of an oldest sibling (James) reflect the spiritual leadership required to keep a family anchored in faith?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. LOOKING BEYOND PERSONAL CRISIS



- Amidst his own identity struggles, Bobby is deeply affected by the crisis of his best friend, Eric, who is taken away by child protective services. How does this outside event force Bobby to shift his focus from self-pity to compassion and action?

- Read Philippians 2:3-4. This passage encourages us to value others above ourselves and look to their interests. How does Bobby's response to Eric's crisis illustrate the beginning of spiritual maturity the ability to look beyond one's own needs to help a friend?

4. THE NECESSITY OF CHOOSING A PATH

- Bobby realises he must "choose the path for his life before external circumstances choose it for him." What does the film suggest about the spiritual danger of passively drifting through life without making a firm commitment to Christ?

Read Joshua 24:15. Joshua tells the people to "choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve." How does Bobby's climactic choice mirror the ultimate choice every person must make regarding their spiritual allegiance and life's direction?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Reflect on your own identity. How much of it is rooted in Christ versus in external achievements or relationships? What external circumstance in your life is forcing you to make a choice about your faith or future?



PRAYER

Close the Bible study with a time of prayer, for all families, especially those dealing with loss and conflict, for unity and forgiveness.

Pray for young people struggling with their identity, that they would find clarity and purpose rooted in their identity in Christ.



CONCLUSION

Bringing Up Bobby is a fun and convicting film that teaches a profound truth: while circumstances like family legacy and tragedy shape us, our true identity and purpose are found only when we stop drifting and choose to embrace our faith in Jesus Christ.