



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

INTRODUCTION

Hero is centered on Joe Finn, a former baseball legend who failed miserably as a husband and father. After returning to his hometown following his estranged wife's death, Joe finds his adult son, David, harbors deep anger. Seeking redemption and reconciliation, Joe steps in to coach his son's struggling Little League team, the Gappers. By instituting "Joe's Rules" and requiring fathers to practice daily with their sons, Joe uses the purity of the game to revitalize the community, rebuild broken relationships, and become a true "Hero" in his son's life.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. THE PURSUIT OF WORLDLY FAME VS. FAMILY

- What warning does Joe's past give us about the ultimate value of worldly ambition versus faithfulness to our family?
- Read Mark 8:36. Jesus asks what good it is for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul. How does Joe's experience illustrate that focusing on professional achievement over covenantal relationships with family is a spiritual bankruptcy?



2. THE BURDEN OF UNFORGIVENESS

- How does the shared passion for baseball become the difficult but necessary bridge for reconciliation between the father and son?
- Read Ephesians 4:31-32. How does Joe's persistent effort to earn back his son's love reflect God's relentless pursuit of us, and what does the film suggest is the healing power of a son finally choosing to release his anger?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. FATHERHOOD AS A CALL TO ENGAGEMENT



- Joe challenges the father's to be active involvement. What is the spiritual significance of a father's active, intentional presence in his child's life?

- Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7. God commands parents to continually teach the Scriptures to their children. How does Joe's focus on daily practice and involvement symbolize the need for Christian fathers to be continually and intentionally present in the spiritual and emotional formation of their children?

4. REDEMPTION ACROSS BARRIERS

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Luke 19:10. The Bible teaches that in Christ, we are new creations, and Jesus came to seek and save the lost. How do Joe's efforts to reach fathers in seemingly impossible situations (like prison) demonstrate the redemptive power of Christ's love extending to the entire community?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Reflect on a time when you prioritized a worldly pursuit over your family or a key relationship. What steps did you take, or what steps do you need to take now, to seek reconciliation? Consider how you can become a more active and intentional presence in the lives of those you love this week.



PRAYER

Close the Bible study with a time of prayer, for estranged fathers and sons, asking God to open the door for reconciliation and forgiveness.

Pray for the courage to prioritize family and faith above worldly fame, trusting that God's grace can redeem past failures.



CONCLUSION

Hero is a powerful story of second chances and the profound love of a father fighting for his son's forgiveness. The film teaches that being a true hero isn't about professional fame; it's about the integrity and love we show in our own homes and communities.

