



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

## INTRODUCTION

In *Hidden Blessings*, documentary filmmaker Lydia Drake arrives at the estate of reclusive painter Gregory Davidson with a camera, a professional brief, and a heart full of unresolved grief and anger toward God. What she finds is not merely a compelling subject for a film, but a man whose faith, humor, and hard-won joy quietly dismantle everything she thought she believed. Lydia witnesses a family navigating love, loss, rivalry, and forgiveness — and slowly discovers that her own story is far more intertwined with Davidson's than she ever imagined. *Hidden Blessings* is a film about what lies beneath the surface of things: beneath a painting, beneath a life, and beneath grief that has not yet been surrendered to God.



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## 1. GOD'S PROVIDENCE

- Lydia believes she has been hired to make a documentary. What she does not yet know is that the painting in her possession, the note her mother left her, and her access to Davidson's world are all threads of a story God has been weaving long before she arrived. How does the film's gradual revelation of Lydia's hidden connection to the Davidson family challenge the idea that the significant moments of our lives are random or accidental?

- Read Romans 8:28 and Proverbs 16:9. How do these passages affirm that God is sovereignly at work in the seemingly ordinary and even painful circumstances of our lives? In what area of your own life do you find it hardest to trust that God is purposefully at work?



## 2. THE FATHER'S LOVE

- Sam's story echoes the parable of the Prodigal Son: he demands his inheritance, leaves for a life of excess, and discovers that neither wealth nor pleasure can fill the void he carries. Meanwhile, Gregory does not argue or condemn, but gives Sam the money, tells him he loves him, and lets him go. How does Gregory's response to Sam reflect the extraordinary patience and love of the Father toward those who wander from Him?

- Read Luke 15:11–24. What does this parable reveal about the nature of God's love? What can we learn from Sam's failed pursuit of fulfillment in wealth and pleasure?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 4. FAITHFUL WITNESS



- Lydia arrives as a skeptic, hostile toward Christians and convinced that God is indifferent to human suffering. But the sustained witness of Davidson's life gradually dismantles her resistance. How does the film portray the power of a life of genuine faith to reach someone that argument alone could not?

- Read 1 Peter 3:15–16 and Matthew 5:14–16. How do these passages call believers to a faith that is both verbally confessed and visibly demonstrated? Who do you know whose life bore witness to the reality of God before you could fully articulate why?

### 4. SUFFERING AND GRIEF

Lydia's hostility toward God is rooted in real pain and suffering in her personal life. Yet by the end, she arrives not at easy answers but at genuine faith — a conviction that God is truly present and active even in the midst of suffering. How does the film resist offering shallow comfort while still pointing toward a God who redeems loss?

- Read 2 Corinthians 1:3–5 and Romans 5:3–5. How do these passages describe a God who enters into our suffering and uses it to produce something of eternal worth? What does it mean, practically, to find comfort in God that then equips you to comfort others?



## REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Reflect on a season of your own life that felt purposeless or painful at the time. Looking back, where can you now see the hand of God's providence in ways you could not recognise in the moment?

In what area of your faith do you sense God is calling you to grow deeper right now?



## PRAYER

Close the Bible study with a time of prayer, inviting people to bring before God the hidden griefs, unanswered questions, and areas of resistance they may still be carrying.

Encourage each person to pray with honesty, trusting that God does not turn away from those who come to Him, however long the journey home has taken.



## CONCLUSION

We do not always recognise the story God is telling until we are deep inside it. As Davidson says of his canvases, we must make sure our foundation is right. For the believer, that foundation is Christ Himself — the one in whom all hidden things are finally and fully revealed. Encourage one another to keep trusting the God who is already at work beneath the surface of your lives.