



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

INTRODUCTION

Police officer Carl Thomas is revered by his colleagues for his aggressive fearlessness on the streets, but behind closed doors, he is a man drowning in unaddressed trauma, childhood abuse, and explosive anger. His volatile personal life threatens to destroy his family and career until he reluctantly attends a church revival and experiences a radical, life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. As Carl steps back into his police uniform, his overnight transformation from a hardened cop into a compassionate witness for the gospel is met with deep skepticism from his fellow officers and superiors. The film illustrates the power of God to change even the most hardened of hearts—and His continuing faithfulness in continuing to sanctify by His Spirit despite the many challenges that arise from professing faith in Jesus.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. REPLACING EXPLOSIVE REACTIONS WITH DAILY SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

- Before his conversion, Carl relied on sheer willpower and aggressive outbursts to cope with stress, resulting in excessive force on the job and turmoil at home. What are the physical or emotional warning signs that stress is taking over, and what immediate, practical steps can we take in those moments to turn to Christ instead of reacting in anger?
- Read Galatians 5:19-25 and James 1:19-20. What are the acts of the flesh vs the fruits of the Spirit? In whose strength and into whose image are we refined? How can we keep in step with the Spirit even when we're tested?



2. RESTING IN CHRIST DESPITE OUR WOUNDS

- Carl carried heavy emotional wounds from childhood abuse and military combat, which fed his bitterness and defensiveness.
- Why do we often try to bury past trauma or mask our pain through work, busyness, or control rather than taking it directly to God?
- Read Matthew 11:28-30 and Psalm 147:3. How does God view the brokenhearted and afflicted; the wearied and burdened? How can we come to Jesus and find rest when we're wearied and burdened? Why can we?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. PATIENT PERSEVERANCE IN THE FACE OF SKEPTICISM



- When Carl started handing out Bibles, speaking gently to suspects, and sharing his faith, his fellow officers doubted his sincerity and waited for him to fail. How should we practically respond when coworkers, friends, or family members test or mock our faith in Jesus?

- Read 1 Peter 2:12 and Colossians 4:5-6. How does a consistent life of quiet integrity and gracious speech eventually win the respect of skeptics? What daily actions show others that our relationship with Christ is authentic?

4. VIEWING YOUR WORKDAY AS A KINGDOM MISSION

- After his conversion, Carl did not change his profession; instead, he changed how he approached his daily patrol - as an opportunity to reflect Jesus to those around him. How can you reframe your week to week activities as an opportunity from God to serve others and reflect Jesus?

- Read Colossians 3:23-24 and Matthew 5:14-16. How does the love of Christ change the way we treat difficult people? What is one tangible way you can reflect Jesus in your workplace or community this week?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Reflect on your current workplace, school, or home environment. Reflect on your current workplace, school, or home environment. What is one practical habit you can establish this week that will deepen your walk with Jesus and demonstrate His love to those around you?



PRAYER

Close your group time by sharing things that are stopping you from living for Jesus. Thank God for the forgiveness found in Jesus, praising Him for the wonders of His abundant grace towards us, and the height, depth, width, and breadth of His love. Pray for opportunities to love those around us in our different circles, and for opportunities to share the gospel with them.



CONCLUSION

Dispatched shows us that when Jesus changes a heart, He transforms every aspect of daily life. As we anchor our identity in Christ, process our past pain in His presence, and commit to daily obedience, He uses us as His hands and feet wherever we are sent. So, step into the coming week knowing you have been purposefully dispatched by God to love others and show them Jesus.