



FINDING FAITH: Small Group Bible Study inspired by the movie "Nail 32"

INTRODUCTION

In *Nail 32* (2015), Jasper "Buck" Livingston's incredible journey unfolds as a north Texas rodeo cowboy, rancher, father, and preacher who proves that even the most ordinary men can live a life filled with extraordinary purpose. Compelled by a promise to his mother, Buck attends an Easter service where the sovereign grace of God breaks through his defenses, leading him to put his faith in Christ. Facing intense skepticism from a culture that believes "cowboys aren't in the Bible," Buck perseveres through deep personal failures, grueling rodeo circuits, and heavy trials. Just as it takes exactly 32 nails to securely attach the shoes to a horse, the film illustrates that every single life serves a providential purpose in God's kingdom. Buck strategizes his life mission one soul at a time, ultimately pioneering a unique "cowboy church" movement and demonstrating how God unashamedly redeems human culture for His global glory.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. SOVEREIGN GRACE VS. CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS

- Upon converting, Buck is met with immediate skepticism by those who mock his faith or claim that a person cannot truly be both a cowboy and a Christian. How does Buck's conversion challenge the idea that certain subcultures or backgrounds are outside the reach of the gospel?
- Read Romans 1:16 and 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. How do these passages describe whom God chooses to call? What does it mean for our identity that God's sovereign choice is not dependent on cultural prestige, but entirely on His good pleasure?



2. LIVING OUT THE CHRISTIAN VOCATION WITH INTEGRITY

- Rather than abandoning his rodeo passion, Buck wrestles with how to steward his skills as a cowboy for the kingdom of God.
- How does Buck's decision to plant a "cowboy church" and hold services in a local bar show that Christians are called to engage their culture rather than completely retreat from it?
- Read Colossians 3:23-24 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. According to these verses, how should we approach our daily jobs, hobbies, and talents? How does treating your daily work as a divine calling change your level of integrity?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. PERSEVERANCE THROUGH DISAPPOINTMENT AND FAILURE



- Buck's road is far from easy. How does Buck's endurance through hardship challenge the false theology that a faithful Christian life will always be free from sickness and failure?

- Read Romans 8:28 and Genesis 50:20. How do these passages anchor a believer when unexpected tragedies hit? In what ways did God ordain the "nails" of suffering in Buck's life to securely fasten his dependence on Christ?

4. OVERCOMING ENMITY WITH GOSPEL GRACE

- One of the most powerful arcs in the film involves a man who intensely harasses Buck over his newly found faith, only to eventually be won over by Buck's kindness and become his associate pastor. What does Buck's patient endurance under persecution reveal about the power of the gospel to disarm hostility?

- Read Matthew 5:44-45 and Romans 12:19-21. Why is responding to hostility with grace, rather than retaliation, a vivid display of the gospel? How does trusting in God's ultimate justice free us to love our enemies?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION

How might you apply the themes of sovereign vocation, grace under pressure, and intentional personal evangelism in your own life? Share specific ways you can intentionally use your current workspace or hobbies to point others to Christ, ministering to people "one soul at a time."



PRAYER

Close the Bible study with a time of focused prayer. Ask the Lord for the courage to stand firm in your faith when facing cultural pushback. Pray for a deeper appreciation of God's sovereignty over your life trials, and ask for specific opportunities to show Christlike love to someone who may currently oppose or mock your beliefs.



CONCLUSION

Nail 32 reminds us that an ordinary life surrendered to an extraordinary God can yield a massive kingdom harvest. Let us go forward with confidence, knowing that we are sustained by His grace, called to work for His glory, and uniquely positioned to proclaim the gospel to a broken world.