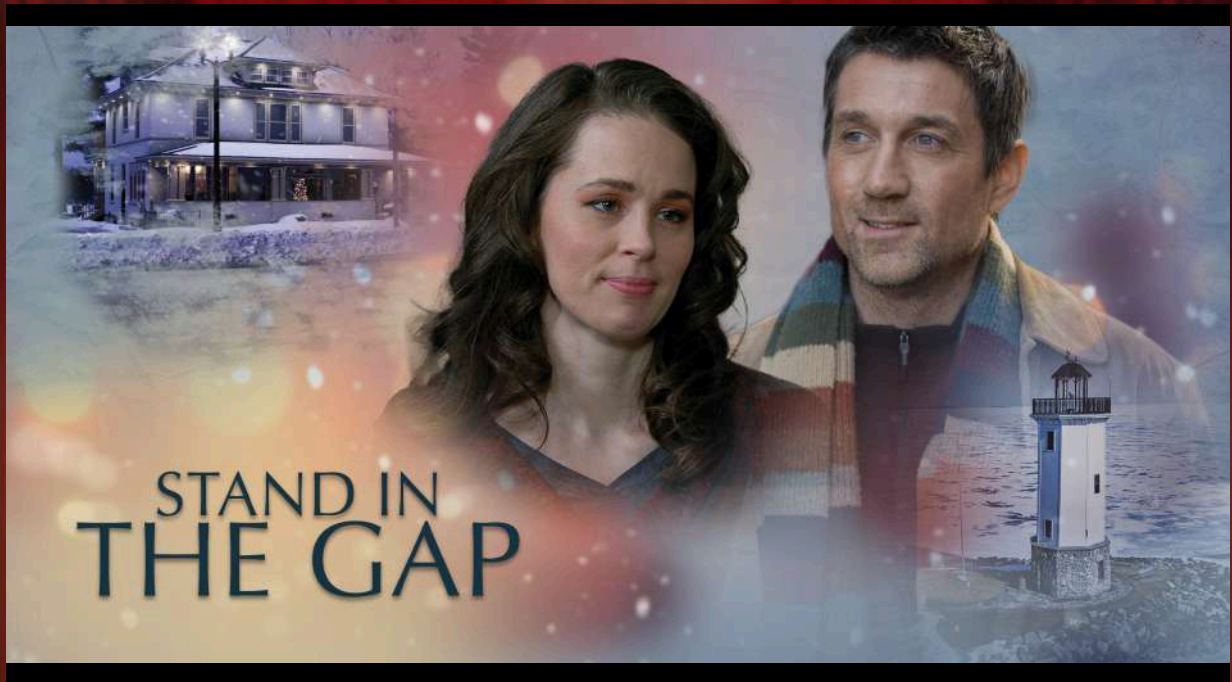




FINDING FAITH: Small Group Bible Study inspired by the movie "Stand in the Gap"

## INTRODUCTION

Hollywood actor August Star reluctantly returns to his small hometown of Owl's Point to shoot a television Christmas special. Accompanied by his mother-manager and the film's director, August is forced to confront deep unresolved family issues surrounding the death of his father and the lingering reasons why he fled his community three years earlier. As hidden pieces of a long-unsolved family puzzle come to light, August faces a practical turning point in his life. The film highlights how God calls us to "stand in the gap"—combining tangible steps of reconciliation with a progressive surrender of our hearts to Jesus Christ as the ultimate source of our identity and strength.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1. TAKING PRACTICAL STEPS TOWARD PEACEMAKING

- In the film, August couldn't heal his family relationships or resolve his past from a distance; he had to physically return to Owl's Point and face the people he left behind. Peacemaking requires concrete, intentional steps rather than passive wishful thinking. What are the immediate, practical steps we can take when seeking to repair a strained relationship, and how is humility the key?
- Read Matthew 5:23-24 and Romans 12:18. What specific instructions does Scripture give about taking the initiative in reconciliation? How does taking practical steps toward peace reflect Christ's heart for us?



### 2. DEPENDENCE UPON GOD THROUGH PRAYER

- August spent three years avoiding his past through career distractions. Replacing self-reliance with a robust dependence upon God requires a healthy and active prayer life.
- What daily habits or distractions stop us from praying, and how can we practically replace them with quiet time in God's presence?
- Read Philippians 4:6-7 and Psalm 62:8. How does pouring out our fears, grief, and mistakes to Jesus in prayer shift us from anxious self-effort to resting in His peace? How does prayer help us to know Jesus?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 3. SHIFTING IDENTITY: FROM HUMAN APPROVAL TO ABIDING IN CHRIST



- As a professional actor, August's identity was bound up in performance, status, and public image.
- What warning signs indicate that our sense of value is leaning more on success or people's opinions than on our relationship with Jesus?
- Read John 15:4-5 and Galatians 2:20. What does it look like practically on a daily basis to "abide" in Jesus? How does knowing we are fully loved and secured by Him free us from the pressure to perform for others?

### 4. LIVING AS A BEACON OF GOD'S GRACE

- As August uncovers the full story of his father's life and his family's history, he faces a choice: hold onto bitterness or allow grace to reshape his future. How does experiencing the depth of God's grace toward us empower us to show that same grace to others? What would that look like?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 and Ephesians 4:32. What does it mean to act as an ambassador of reconciliation in our everyday lives? What is one practical way you can show grace to someone in your circle this week?





## REFLECTION & APPLICATION

**Reflect on your current walk with Jesus and your relationships.** What is one practical adjustment you can make in your daily routine—such as setting aside dedicated time for prayer, practising active listening, or extending a specific apology—that will both deepen your walk with Christ and help bridge a gap in a relationship?



## PRAYER

Close your group time by sharing both practical family/relational needs and personal desires for deeper intimacy with the Lord. Pray for the courage to take actionable steps toward peacemaking, and ask the Holy Spirit to draw you into a richer, more abiding relationship with Jesus.



## CONCLUSION

*Stand in the Gap* reminds us that restoration from a painful past from a deep faith and identity rooted in a your relationship with Jesus Christ. As we take practical, obedient steps to reconcile with others and speak truth in love, we do so from the overflowing grace of God. So, be prayerful and gracious this week, trusting that Jesus will sustain you and comfort you every step of the way.