



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

INTRODUCTION

Christmas Grace (2013) is a Christian-themed film set during the Christmas season, exploring the rivalry between two toy store owners: Gary, a kind and faithful local owner, and Jim Tollman, a ruthless businessman determined to drive him out of business. Despite Jim's aggressive and unethical tactics, Gary maintains an unwavering attitude of grace and kindness. The film culminates in a powerful act of Christian charity, demonstrating that God's grace and providence can work in unexpected ways to transform lives and overcome even the fiercest competition.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. GRACE IN THE FACE OF CRUELTY

- Jim Tollman employs aggressive and unethical tactics, explicitly intending to ruin Gary's business. Gary, however, refuses to retaliate, choosing to treat his competitor with kindness. How does the film define and illustrate the concept of grace in a business and personal rivalry?
- Read Luke 6:27-28. Jesus commands us to "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." How does Gary's refusal to fight fire with fire exemplify this difficult biblical command? What does the film suggest is the spiritual reward for choosing grace over revenge?



2. THE POWER OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS

- Gary's faith is evident in how he handles the rivalry, serving as a constant, non-verbal witness to the hardened Jim Tollman. How does Gary's consistent character eventually break through Jim's cynicism and greed?
- Read 1 Peter 2:12. This verse encourages us to live such good lives among the unbelievers that they may see our good deeds and glorify God. How does Gary's commitment to honesty and kindness act as a powerful form of Christian witness that ultimately impacts his rival?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. PROVIDENCE IN BUSINESS AND LIFE



The film emphasizes that God's grace and providence manifest in ways neither man could anticipate. What does the film suggest about the difference between earning success through striving and receiving God's provision through faithful trust?

Read Philippians 4:19 and Proverbs 16:3. How does Gary's focus on integrity over ruthless competition ultimately align with God's providence and what do these passages suggest?

4. THE UNEXPECTED ACT OF CHARITY

- The true moment of grace arrives when Gary steps in to help Jim save his failing business, acting against his own immediate financial interest. What does this surprising act of Christian charity teach us about the radical, self-sacrificial nature of true love?

- Read John 13:34-35. Jesus tells his disciples that their love for one another will prove they are his disciples. How does Gary's final act of helping his enemy demonstrate the kind of radical, selfless love that defines a follower of Christ?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Reflect on a time when you were tempted to retaliate against someone who wronged you. How did you choose to respond, and what was the outcome? How can you show an unexpected, radical act of Christian charity to someone in your life who has been a competitor or an antagonist?



PRAYER

Close the Bible study with a time of prayer. Pray for the grace to love our enemies and to treat those who oppose us with kindness. Pray for faith to trust in God's providence, believing that His plan for us is better than any success we could achieve on our own.



CONCLUSION

Christmas Grace is a powerful reminder that God's grace is at work in every situation, even fierce competition. The film encourages us to be imitators of Christ, choosing unwavering kindness and charity over retaliation, because the transformative power of God's love is the greatest gift we can offer the world.