

THE ABIDING NAIL

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

INTRODUCTION

The Abiding Nail is a faith-based drama and redemption story about Ness, a small-town girl who achieved Hollywood stardom as "Kara Linney" only to suffer a public, drug-fueled breakdown. Shattered and disgraced, she returns to her quiet hometown, Willow Falls, to live with her supportive, former pastor father and begin her recovery. The film contrasts the mercy-less fame of Hollywood with the merciful forgiveness found in her Christian roots, emphasizing the power of faith, community, and unconditional love to heal addiction and restore a lost life.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. THE ILLUSION OF FAME VS. THE ANCHOR OF FAITH

- Ness's glamorous Hollywood life, lived under the name Kara Linney, crumbles because it was built on a "fragile foundation." How does the film illustrate the emptiness and unforgiving nature of worldly success and the fame it provides?
- Read Matthew 16:26. This verse asks what it profits a person to gain the whole world but lose their soul. How does Ness's experience reflect this truth? How can a Christian guard against pursuing fleeting worldly success at the expense of their spiritual foundation?



2. THE POWER OF MERCIFUL FORGIVENESS

- The film highlights the contrast between the merciless judgment of Hollywood and the merciful forgiveness Ness finds in her hometown of Willow Falls. How crucial is the forgiveness extended by her father and the community to Ness's recovery and spiritual healing?
- Read Colossians 3:13. This passage instructs us to forgive one another, "just as the Lord forgave you." How does the unconditional love and acceptance shown by Ness's father and the community reflect the merciful nature of God's forgiveness for us?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. RETURNING TO THE FATHER



- Ness's physical return home symbolizes a spiritual return to her faith. What does the relationship between Ness and her father symbolize about our relationship with our Heavenly Father?

- Read Luke 15:11-32. How does Ness's journey reflect the "coming to her senses" and returning home? How does her father's welcoming stance illustrate God's unchanging, compassionate heart toward those who have strayed?

4. COMMUNITY AS A CATALYST FOR HEALING

- The townspeople's decision to create a movie with Ness as the lead provides a catalyst for her deeper involvement and healing. This act brings "Hollywood" home but integrates it into a loving, forgiving community. How does the film demonstrate the restorative power of a healthy, supportive Christian community?

- Read Hebrews 10:24-25. How does the acceptance and engagement of the Willow Falls community demonstrate the role of the church in helping a member through recovery and into spiritual renewal?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Reflect on a time when you needed forgiveness or experienced public failure. Where did you find sanctuary and strength? How can you, like the people of Willow Falls, extend radical forgiveness and unconditional love to someone in your own community who is struggling with addiction, failure, or public disgrace?



PRAYER

Close the Bible study with a time of prayer, for those struggling with addiction and recovery, asking God to surround them with supportive, merciful Christian community.

Pray for the grace to forgive others completely, reflecting the profound mercy we have received from God.



CONCLUSION

The Abiding Nail is a powerful story of sanctuary and sobriety, showing that regardless of how far one falls, there is always a way home. The film encourages us to trade the shallow promises of the world for the deep, abiding truth that healing, forgiveness, and new beginnings are found in Christian community and in the merciful love of God.