



FINDING FAITH: Small Group Bible Study inspired by the movie "The First Step"

INTRODUCTION

The First Step follows David, a man whose seemingly perfect life, anchored by his family and faith, is shattered by a sudden, devastating personal tragedy. Overwhelmed by grief and a feeling of betrayal by God, David rejects his beliefs and pushes away his loved ones, descending into a dark pursuit of revenge. The film chronicles his resistance to help from friends and Pastor Bryan, his eventual turning point, and his difficult journey toward forgiveness, reconciliation, and the rediscovery of his faith, emphasizing that healing is possible through the courage to surrender.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. FAITH IN THE FACE OF TRAGEDY

- David's spiritual crisis begins when he feels betrayed by God following his personal tragedy. He withdraws from his church community and rejects the faith that once anchored him. What does the film suggest about the difference between a shallow faith and one that can endure profound loss?
- Read Habakkuk 3:17-18. The prophet resolves to rejoice in the Lord even when all earthly sources of happiness are gone. How does this passage challenge David's reaction to his loss? How can Christians learn to anchor their faith in God's character rather than in their circumstances?



2. THE CORROSIVE NATURE OF REVENGE

- Consumed by a desire for retribution, David goes down a "dark road" and engages in self-destructive behavior. How does the film illustrate the spiritual and emotional destruction that the pursuit of revenge inflicts on the avenger, rather than the intended target?
- Read Romans 12:19 and Hebrews 12:15. These verses warn against seeking revenge and letting bitterness take root. How does David's isolation and self-destruction reflect the truth that unforgiveness is a poison that harms the one who holds it?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. THE PERSISTENCE OF LOVE AND INTERVENTION



- Pastor Bryan and friends make consistent, difficult efforts to reach him, despite his fierce resistance. How does their refusal to abandon David reflect the persistent, unconditional love of God?

- Read 2 Timothy 4:2 and Jude 22-23. How do these passages instruct believers to engage with those who are struggling or straying? What does the movie teach us about the importance of being the persistent hands and voice of Christ to those in pain?

4. THE COURAGE TO SURRENDER

- The turning point is described as David finding the courage to take the "first step" of turning away from darkness. Why is surrender often the hardest and most courageous step toward redemption?

Read James 4:7-8. This passage commands us to "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." How does David's decision to stop resisting help and acknowledge his need for God reflect this call to humble submission and the beginning of true peace?



REFLECTION & APPLICATION

Reflect on a time when you struggled with a painful loss or felt the pull of resentment. What steps did you take to find healing? How can you apply the biblical truth that true courage is found in surrendering your pain and need for control to God? Consider a relationship in your life that needs reconciliation and what "first step" you can take this week.



PRAYER

Close the Bible study with a time of prayer, for those who are struggling with grief, anger, and the temptation of revenge.

Pray for the courage to surrender our pain and our will to God, and for the wisdom to be persistent, loving messengers of Christ to those who have withdrawn from the Church.



CONCLUSION

David's story is a powerful testament to the fact that even the deepest wounds can be healed. The film encourages us to trade the destructive road of retribution for the difficult but life-giving path of forgiveness, reconciliation, and renewed faith, trusting that God's grace is sufficient to rebuild any life shattered by tragedy.