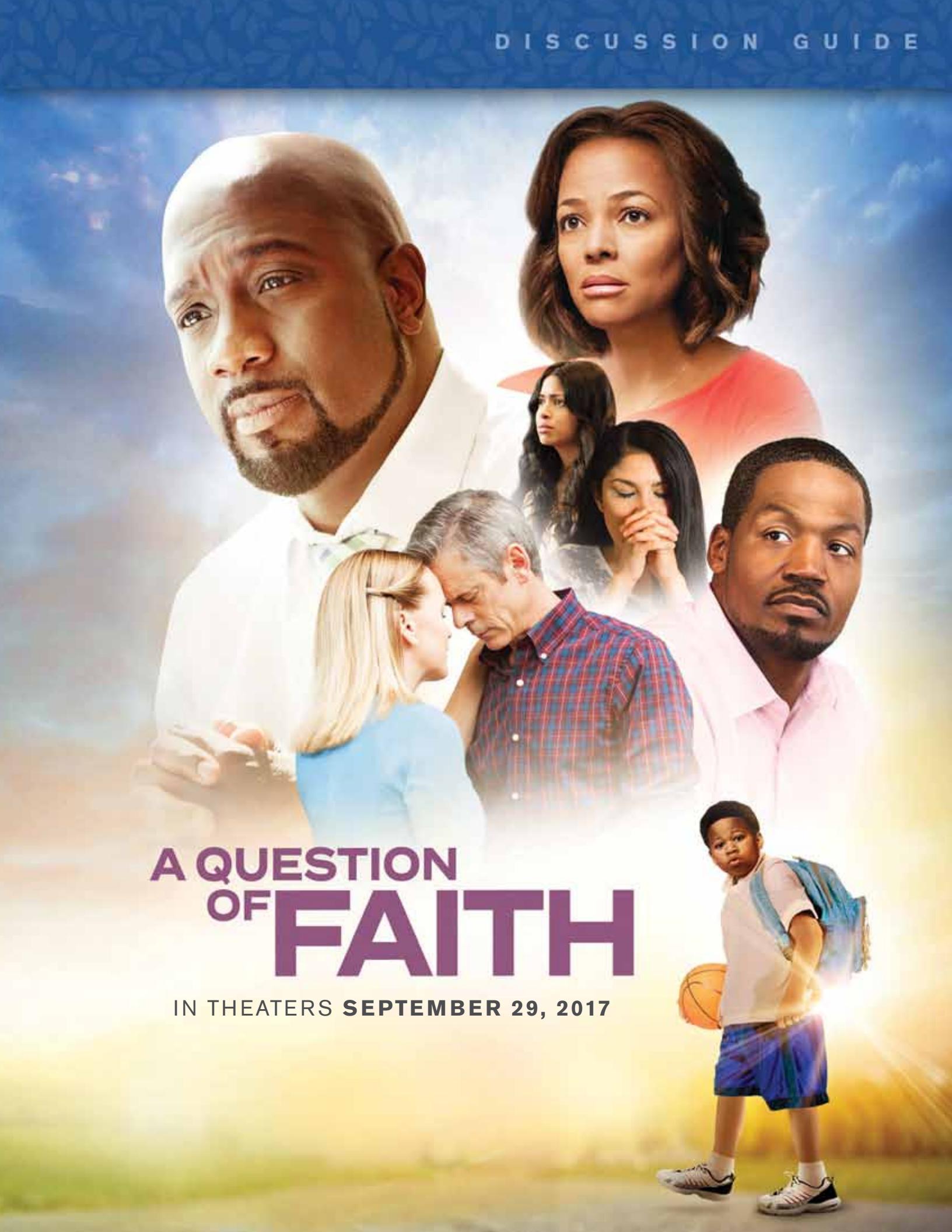


DISCUSSION GUIDE



A QUESTION OF FAITH

IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

A QUESTION OF FAITH

On September 29, 2017, Pure Flix Entertainment and Silver Lining Entertainment will proudly present the feature film, *A Question of Faith*. The film follows three different families struck by tragedy, forcing their destiny on a converging path to discover God's love, grace, mercy and the power of forgiveness.

In *A Question of Faith*, all three families find themselves at a crossroads, questioning their faith and the higher power that guides their lives, as a result of their tragedies. The lead character in the first family is David Newman, a man of God who struggles with issues of guilt and anger. David is a loving husband and father, set to take over his father's church while neglecting the promises he's made to his twelve year-old son, Eric. As a result, David has to learn some difficult lessons of how to forgive, starting with himself.

The lead character in the second family is Kate Hernandez, a spiritually driven single mother and owner of a local restaurant. Her daughter, Maria, is a free-spirited teenager aspiring to be the first in her family to go to college. The Hernandez family journey will help them to discover God's mercy and the power of prayer.

John Danielson is the father and lead character in the third family. He is the owner of a failing construction company. He sees his daughter, Michelle – a fledgling singer – as a potential way out of financial trouble, should her career take off. The Danielsons will have a tough road forward to understand God's grace, and the power of reconciliation – a power that has the potential to transform a life.

As each family member deals with their own issues, their worlds start to intertwine, leading to a chain of events which will unknowingly brings the three families closer and closer together. Will the families give in to the loss, pain, and uncertainty that have shattered their lives? Or will they find the tie that binds them together through hope, trust, redemption and goodwill?

To help guide your discussion and interaction with the film we have provided this guide. You'll find downloadable links to five scenes at our faith resources website: AQuestionOfFaith.com.

We encourage you to read this discussion guide and learn how to utilize aspects of this film to share more in-depth with your community, how God can transform a heart through prayer, understanding, forgiveness, reconciliation, mercy and compassion – all of the virtues God envisioned for his children. The issues explored in this film may be difficult for the viewer to process. Dealing with grief and loss can be uncomfortable, but they are topics that must be discussed in order to manifest a full envisioning of God and his goodness.

Lastly, we touch on social issues, such as texting and driving, the dangers of one's actions, and even organ donating – an ultimate gift of love. Even racial reconciliation issues are addressed, as we are all God's children regardless of the color of our skin.

This film will uplift you and make your community want to be better Christians and better human beings. We hope you will watch the film with your church family and facilitate a proactive conversation so as to start the healing process for your community members.

We salute you for taking the first step towards creating freedom from pain, loss, anger and grief so as to receive the fullness of God's love, for yourself, your family and for your church network.

God's blessings,

Angela White

Angela White, Producer of *A Question of Faith*
Nelson Jackson III, Associate Producer

David Newman and Cecil King are having a meeting to discuss securing a contractor to expand their church. David is having a hard time learning to forgive a potential applicant, who could be qualified to do the job, however their first encounter was not met with respect or kindness. Cecil is David's voice of reason, reminding him that God may call us to do things that are uncomfortable. This lesson is what God expects of us and the power of forgiveness is healing for oneself first.

a Change of Heart

THE POWER OF LETTING GO

TIME TO REFLECT

How do you not react negatively toward someone who has done something negative to you? How do you avoid exchanging unpleasant words with someone who has verbally disrespected you? In Luke 6:35, Jesus admonishes us to love our enemies, do what is good and lend to them, expecting nothing in return. If we do this, our reward will be great as sons of the Most High who is kind to those who are ungrateful and evil. Can you do what is good when it pertains to your enemy? Can you not only lend to them but also expect nothing back in return?

Another young man murdered a young man in Minneapolis, MN over an argument at a party. The killer was a 16-year-old kid named Oshea. Oshea was tried as an adult and sentenced to 25 1/2 years in jail. Mary, the mother of the young man who was murdered, was obviously hurt and angry. She said that Oshea was an animal and deserved a cage. Like any mother, she wanted justice. If you were the mother of the victim, would you feel the same way? Do you live by the rule, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?" Is this the rule God desires for us to live by?

After serving 17 years, Oshea was released and moved back into the same neighborhood where he had murdered Mary's young son. Prior to Oshea's release, Mary decided to meet Oshea while incarcerated at the Minnesota's Stillwater state prison. Because of her relationship with Jesus, she felt it was necessary to find a way to forgive her son's murderer. Mary did just that. Her forgiving of Oshea does not diminish what he did. She forgave him for herself. She even developed a relationship with him and visited him regularly. When he got out of prison, she made a way for him to move next door to her. WOW! Forgiving someone is one thing, but could you go as far as developing a relationship with the murderer of someone you loved dearly?

Cecil was not just saying words when he told David they were men of God. They go where He tells them to go and does what He tells them to do, even when it makes them uncomfortable. When we change our hearts, it gives us power to let go; otherwise we remain stuck in a place of bitterness and anger about decisions that have been made that we cannot change. What have you allowed to remain in your heart that is deep-rooted? If being able to let go means you have to change your heart, how does that make you feel?

Like Cecil said and Mary proved, it is not about us more than it is about God and what he can do in our lives. When we change our heart and let things go, it is for us. This is how we break chains and walk in freedom.

TEACHABLE CONCEPTS

- 1. In order to forgive, you have to free yourself from the hurt; anger, pain and any negative feelings that are holding you back from living out God's purpose for you.**
- 2. Never allow pride to stop you from uniting with God on a spiritual level. In time, God will heal your heart and replace it with a humble spirit to look at situations from a different perspective.**
- 3. Letting go ultimately allows a spiritual transformation in your life.**

LUKE 6:35-37 (NASB)

35 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. 36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned."

ROMANS 12:17-20 (GW)

17 "Don't pay people back with evil for the evil they do to you. Focus your thoughts on those things that are considered noble. 18 As much as it is possible, live in peace with everyone. 19 Don't take revenge, dear friends. Instead, let God's anger take care of it. After all, Scripture says, "I alone have the right to take revenge. I will pay back, says the Lord." 20 But, 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink. If you do this, you will make him feel guilty and ashamed.'

FINAL PERSONAL THOUGHTS & PRAYER

Dear Lord, help me to release anger, feelings of betrayal, hurt, pain and anything that is blocking me from giving you glory. Please change my heart, so I can walk in the path that you have set for me. Help me to embrace humility and become less familiar with pride. This is my prayer of release.



Mercy

AM I DESERVING OF IT?

ISAIAH 54:10 (NKJV)

10 "For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,' Says the LORD, who has mercy on you."

PSALM 86:5 (GW)

5 "You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, full of mercy toward everyone who calls out to you."

HEBREWS 4:16 (TEV)

16 "Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it."



Maria Hernandez has committed a crime and has found herself in a horrible situation – jail. Maria's mother, Kate Hernandez, is a struggling single parent trying to make ends meet, and she has to find a way to save her daughter. Maria has never been in trouble before. She is searching for answers from her mother to save her, both physically and spiritually. Kate does not have the financial means to bail her daughter out and has to rely on the power of God to show mercy.

TIME TO REFLECT

Maria finds herself in the midst of a tough situation. Most likely, she wishes she had listened to her mother and discontinued to text while driving. She cannot change the course of her actions and has to live with whatever comes next. Her mother, Kate, is doing all that she possibly can within her limited resources. Kate has no other option but to put this situation into God's hands. This is the moment when people often question whether they even deserve God's mercy. If you were Maria, would you pray for God's mercy in your circumstance? If you were on the opposite end and were affected by Maria's actions, would you want God to show her mercy?

While Pope Francis was a priest in Argentina, he met a young lady whose husband had left her and their young children. With no job or stable income, she chose a life of prostitution so that she could feed her household. While prostituting, there was also a local parish that would give her food and material goods to help her and her family. One day, she requested to meet with the parish priest. He figured she was there to show her gratitude for the gift she received for her family. As the priest inquired whether she had received their package, she replied, "Yes, thank you; however that is not why I am here. I came to say thank you because you never stopped calling me Senora."

Why is this story significant to the subject of mercy? Mercy is often defined as not getting what you deserve, while justice is its counterpart – getting what you deserve. In this story, the woman did not see herself as the priest saw her because she allowed her situation to define her overall purpose. Because she was a prostitute, she expected to be seen as such. The priest saw her as "señora" – a woman – and this situation reminded her that everyone should be treated with mercy no matter their circumstances. Have you ever considered the way in which the labels you give people may affect them? Are you aware of the power that your words have over others? Do you feel like people who live immoral lives deserve mercy? Or should they get whatever comes along with that life choice?



Imagine how Maria may have felt about herself because of her error. Imagine her struggle and all the judgment she may have placed on herself. This scene shows that things are not working out in her favor. When things do not seem to be working out in your favor, at some point, do you start to feel that you deserve what you are experiencing? Do you lose confidence in God having a plan for your life?

When we begin to feel guilty, we start to convict ourselves with our own words, and lose confidence in what God can do. Our thoughts can easily turn into us not feeling like we deserve God's mercy. The scary part is that we can begin to feel like we do not deserve God's mercy. We are more willing to accept the negative as a consequence to our actions than to look for his forgiveness or to search for ways in which to forgive ourselves. As long as this remains a question, we allow our need for mercy to be outmatched by our imperfect actions. Stand on Hebrews 4:16, "Let us have confidence and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it."

TEACHABLE CONCEPTS

1. People often find themselves in situations where they feel as if their life doesn't present them a better option. Our job is not to tell them who they are according to their current situation; we are to remind them of who God created them to be.

2. Never allow situations to determine what you do or don't deserve. God's mercy extends beyond the worst act we could ever commit.

3. Never lose confidence in the fact that you can always approach God's throne. God's mercy is always made available when we need it.

FINAL PERSONAL THOUGHTS & PRAYER

God, I thank you that your mercy does not choose my opinion as its criteria. I thank you that the mercy you show never comes to an end. Give me the mind to see myself as you see me. All things you have made are good and that includes me even in my current state. You love me regardless of my mistakes, which is the way I should love myself. The same mercy you show me, I want to be able to show others. Help me to do so as I mature in this area of my life.

Compassion

GOD GIVES TO ALL
WITHOUT EXCEPTION

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-7 (GW)

3 "Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He is the Father who is compassionate and the God who gives comfort. 4 He comforts us whenever we suffer. That is why whenever other people suffer, we are able to comfort them by using the same comfort we have received from God. 5 Because Christ suffered so much for us, we can receive so much comfort from him. 6 Besides, if we suffer, it brings you comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, we can effectively comfort you when you endure the same sufferings that we endure. 7 We have confidence in you. We know that as you share our sufferings, you also share our comfort."

COLOSSIANS 3:12-15 (TEV)

12 "You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. 14 And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. 15 The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful."

EPHESIANS 4:29-32 (TEV)

29 "Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you. 30 And do not make God's Holy Spirit sad; for the Spirit is God's mark of ownership on you, a guarantee that the Day will come when God will set you free. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, passion, and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort. 32 Instead, be kind and tenderhearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ."

David Newman walks into his family home after receiving bad news. David's mother, Patricia Newman, has to remind her son that God gives compassion to all without exception, even when you think someone is not deserving of it.

TIME TO REFLECT

Are you familiar with the term, "hurting people hurt people"? As much as this term may seem like another cliché or a preacher's punch line, it's a statement of truth that describes many people who are hurt in society. When hurting people hurt people, it is rarely intentional. Why do I say this? Have you ever overreacted during a conversation and said some hurtful things that you later regretted? Unfortunately, by the time you realize your words may have hurt someone, it's too late to take back the harshness and/or tone. Now, the recipient is left to wonder what they did to deserve such a harsh response.

On more than one occasion, David Newman's hurt caused him to lash out on the people who were there for him through his most difficult times. This movie teaches us that David's inability to forgive is what fueled the frustrations that spearheaded many of his actions. David was angry and had a hard time letting go of that anger. Did David hold on because he wanted to, or is it that he didn't know how to release it? Identify moments in your life when you have gotten consistently angry about something you should have already released. Discuss with your group the reasons you held on or continue to hold on, as well as why you should possibly decide to let it go. This is an important concept to grasp because our ability to release pain and anger will determine how we show love and compassion. Would you want to live in a world without compassion?

Many of our vulnerable conditions are a result of pain. When these areas of pain are left unattended, they either do not heal or heal incorrectly. As a result, many people fall into a reactive state of living and not a proactive one. In the scene selected, instead of David being receptive to his mother's voice of reason, he became defensive. Can you relate to David's inability to pray with and for the people he felt were responsible for the pain he was currently experiencing? How would you have responded in this same situation?



Why was the response of David's mother the opposite of her son's response to the same situation? She chose to give compassion as God has shown to her. This was accomplished through forgiveness. Her ability to forgive opened up the door for her to show compassion to someone who had no personal connection to her. Do you believe a person can truly show compassion without exception and not forgive?

Forgiveness does not mean we forget what has happened; it means we accept what has happened. This is not an overnight process. God is the perfect example of someone who was wronged by man and did not forgive as fast as one would think God would or even should have. Genesis 5:5-6 tells us because man had become wicked and their thoughts became consistently evil, God became sorry that he had ever made them and put them on the earth; he was so filled with regret. The relationship between God and man was not restored for thousands of years. When God decided to reconcile his relationship with man, He knew he would have to be the one to take the first step. 2 Corinthians 5:18 tells us exactly how God restored his relationship with man, because he chose to forgive and gave us the responsibility to do the same for others. If we do not show to others what God has shown to us, can our relationship with God be negatively affected? Can we truly resemble Christ and not forgive or not show compassion?

TEACHABLE CONCEPTS

1. Forgiveness does not mean we forget what has happened; it means we accept what has happened.

2. Learn to show compassion, as God has shown compassion to us.

3. Do not allow pain to imprison you. Remember, God has freed us.

FINAL PERSONAL THOUGHTS & PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for allowing me to be one of your children. Thank you for showing me what true compassion should look like, so I may follow in your footsteps. Even in dark times, I must remember you walk alongside me, as my Father and will heal any wound. I must remember if I do not learn how to forgive, I will only be imprisoned by anger. Thank you Father for forgiving me for my sins and showing me compassion even when I do not deserve it. This is my prayer.



Grieve

A TIME TO HEAL

PSALM 34:18 (NASB)

18 "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

ROMANS 15:13 (TEV)

13 "May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit."

GENESIS 50:7-10 (TEV)

7 "So Joseph went to bury his father. All the king's officials, the senior men of his court, and all the leading men of Egypt went with Joseph. 8 His family, his brothers, and the rest of his father's family all went with him. Only their small children and their sheep, goats, and cattle stayed in the region of Goshen. 9 Men in chariots and men on horseback also went with him; it was a huge group. 10 When they came to the threshing place at Atad east of the Jordan, they mourned loudly for a long time, and Joseph performed mourning ceremonies for seven days."



Farnsworth Newman is having a discussion with his son David, to address issues with his anger over a tragedy the family has suffered. Farnsworth explains to his son how to pastor others in need of comfort, even if he is struggling with it himself.

TIME TO REFLECT:

Out of all the many things people are taught, we rarely are taught how to deal with grief. Some may feel that they can deal with it while others choose not to deal with it, yet the weight of this burden rarely lightens. It is the elephant in the room we may try to ignore but is too large not to feel its presence when it is there. What have you been taught in regards to dealing with grief? Has it ever been a topic of discussion or is it that one thing that is never discussed?

It is inevitable that everyone will experience death and whether we want to let go or not, life forces us to confront it. Death is not only physical. Anytime we lose someone or something physically that we are connected to emotionally, the grieving process begins. Grieving takes place when we have to accept something we do not want to accept yet have no choice but to do so. During this process of grieving, there's several emotions that one experiences. What are some emotions you feel while grieving? How do you manage them?

Numbers 20:29 as well as Deuteronomy 34 share with us how the children of Israel dealt with the death of Aaron and Moses. Each of these passages tells us how Israel grieved for Aaron and Moses for thirty days. This may seem like a short amount of time; however these 30 days were set aside to acknowledge what could not be ignored; they lost someone they loved and had no choice but to confront reality. Let's not focus on the amount of time they allowed themselves to grieve, but rather on the fact they gave themselves time to grieve. Whether it is a break up, loss of a possession, or physical death, do you give yourself time to grieve?

Deuteronomy 34:8 reads: "Israel grieved for thirty days until the time for weeping and mourning was over." Why would they put an expiration date on grieving? They realized their lives still had to continue. The time used for grieving was used for accepting reality as it presented itself. If we attempt to grasp the residue left behind, we hold on to nothing and lose everything. What restricts you from grieving? Can you see yourself giving grief a time period and committing to no longer grieve when that time period is over?



Why give ourselves this time grieve? Farmsworth says it best in this scene, "What happens when someone loses a loved one and needs God's word to bring them comfort; who is going to give it to them"? Farmsworth is saying to David that the only thing David is able to offer in his current condition is council through pain, not healing. Speaking through pain can taint your council while speaking from healing can enhance your council. Do you feel people who are grieving should advise others while they are struggling with grief? If so, why is this okay? If not, why should this not be allowed?

TEACHABLE CONCEPTS

1. The process of grieving cannot take its course if we never choose to deal with it.

2. Giving you time to grieve is important. Allow yourself as much time as you need to heal because the health of your pure relationships is partially your responsibility.

3. Allow yourself to be cared for while grieving oppose to trying to care so much for others. It is hard to give accurately and adequately what you do not have much to give.

FINAL PERSONAL THOUGHTS & PRAYER

One of the hardest things for me to do is grieve. For me to do this means I have to admit what I have lost and have to let go. Give me direction during these times of my life. I do not want to hide behind jobs, family, friends, or a love interest. Give me the strength to not only face this but to conquer it as well. Give me the courage to deal with these realities even if it means I have to shed tears. Part of the healing process is being okay with the process. I need you to walk with me through this experience so that I not only refrain from hurting others, but myself as well. Your Word says you are near the brokenhearted. Thank you for not leaving me to deal with this all alone.



Grace

THANKFULNESS

MATTHEW 5:45 (GW)

45b "He makes his sun rise on people whether they are good or evil. He lets rain fall on them whether they are just or unjust."

ROMANS 11:6 (ESV)

6 "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace."

JOHN 1:16 (TEV)

16 "Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another."

John Danielson is praying with his wife, Mary, and thanking God for giving their family grace, even when they did not deserve it. John has not shown his family or others kindness due to pain related to his financial troubles. John failed to recognize what was most important in life and almost lost his family in the process. John and Mary pray to God and thank him for blessing their family with grace, in spite of his actions and blind anger towards the world.

TIME TO REFLECT:

We previously discussed that mercy is not getting what we deserve whereas grace is getting what you do not deserve. In addition to doing some pretty horrible things, John has been extremely selfish even when it pertains to the needs of his family. Despite his character, John experienced God's grace in a big way. Do you look at certain individuals and ask yourself, "how is it that this person gets the opportunity to experience God's favor in such a major way while you still struggle to receive half of the things you have worked for? How do you honestly feel about this?

Many would probably say this is not fair. However, if life were truly about what is and isn't fair, how would we ever identify grace? The Apostle Paul is a great example of a life that was affected by the grace of God. In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul mentions his right to boast based off things he has seen and heard. He lets his audience know that in order to prevent him from being prideful, God gave him a physical ailment that served as Satan's messenger; to beat him up and prevent him from being prideful. The most interesting thing about Paul's story is that he prayed three times, asking God to remove this ailment and each time God said, "NO!" Take a few minutes to identify the thing or things in your life that you feel relate to Paul's situation at this time in his life - what physical, mental, or emotional ailment is beating you up? With what you identified, if God were to remove it, do you feel you would then become prideful of your new disposition?

The right answer probably lies in the mind of God and though we pray for so many things, God responds how we would want him to only to some things. God did not just say no, but He also expresses to Paul that his grace is made perfect in Paul's weaknesses. God is telling Paul that, without his condition, grace has no relevance. This applies to us as well; without our conditions, issues, and struggles, grace has no relevance.

John Danielson was a prime candidate for God's favor because of all the things he struggled with. In this scene, John asked his wife, "Who gives someone a contract," like he received, "without references"? References and references are designed to help others determine what we deserve and if we deserve that which we are asking for. John was no different than most of us – he was consumed with his current issues





and did not allow God to be Lord of his life. The sincerity of John's prayer enlightens us as to his change of heart, as he becomes humbled by God's favor on him. If you can be honest with ourselves, try to name at least three issues, past or present, that had you so consumed that you were not allowing God to be Lord even though He *is* Lord?

What makes grace amazing is that it is not based off what we do. The presence of favoritism makes this contradiction possible. We pray for grace when what we have done and accomplished is not enough, however when we feel it is good enough, we never understand why we are not given more opportunities. We all have been guilty of this at some point in our lives. It is easy for us to judge someone else as being unfair, but can you honestly admit that we are also unfair at times? If you can admit this, can you also go as far as sharing an example?

In Romans 2:11-16, Paul shares with us that God does not show favoritism. What this means is when we experience God's grace, it is apart from any criteria. In his perfection, if God used a criterion, we would forever be lost and separated from him. The grace that God offers is non-reactive, which means it cannot be based off of our actions. So when John's wife answers his question in regards to who gives someone a contract like he received without proof of qualification, she answered correctly, "God does." What has God done for you that you can openly admit, according to a secular criteria, you did not deserve? If you still ask the question "Why God would give me such favor?", you are partnering his grace with your abilities. The moment you no longer question and just say thank you, you are finally starting to understand and accept God's grace.

TEACHABLE CONCEPTS

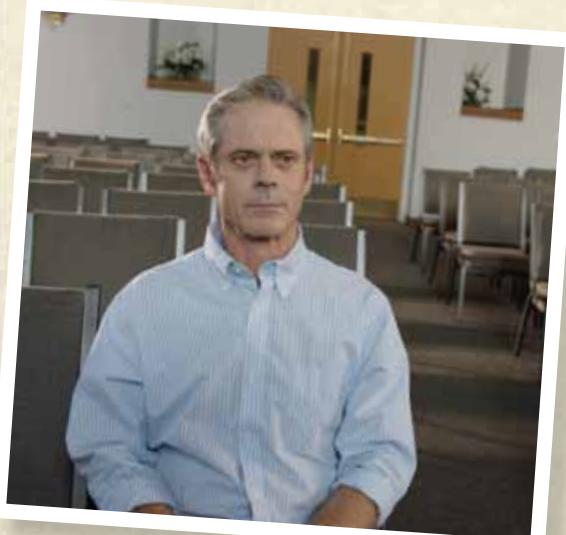
1. God grace is not measured by what is fair or how hard I work. It's given to us as God chooses.

2. Where I feel strong, I am less likely to feel I need God's grace. It's in my weakness that I rely on God's grace to make up the difference.

3. By God's grace we are blessed not because we earned it but because he blesses us according to his purpose.

FINAL PERSONAL THOUGHTS & PRAYER

God, your gift of grace is amazing. It is offered to me not on the basis of my merits, it's based on the fact that you chose to favor me in spite of me. Without your grace, I would miss your goodness. Your grace has opened my eyes to see your plan of salvation for my life. Because of this, I am able to be in a covenant relationship with you. It is because of grace that you chose me and have kept me. Thank you for your amazing grace.





When tragedy strikes three families, their destiny forces them on a converging path to discover God's love, grace and mercy as the challenges of their fate could also resurrect their beliefs. *A Question of Faith* releases in theaters nationwide

SEPTEMBER 29, 2017.

GET INVOLVED:

A Question of Faith is a powerful story that shows how God is at work in our lives, even when we question our faith, and especially during times of crisis.

SHARE THE TRAILER:

Send the link to the trailer (www.AQuestionofFaith.com) to your friends, contacts and community and ask them to share it.

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