

**WE HAVE TO BELIEVE
WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE**



ANNA CAMP

5000 *Blankets*

INSPIRED BY AN INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

5000 *Blankets*

OVERVIEW

Inspired by a remarkable true story, **5000 BLANKETS** is filled with hope and highlights the power of family and faith. When her husband has a mental breakdown and goes missing, a determined woman and her young son set out to find him on the streets, sparking a movement of compassion toward those in need and inspiring a city.

Intended for use after viewing **5000 BLANKETS**, this study guide provides resources for biblically-based discussion. This guide is an excellent tool for group or personal study.

THEME ONE: VULNERABILITY

Throughout the first half of the movie, **5000 BLANKETS**, we often see Cyndi telling people that she and her son are fine, even while going through intense emotional struggles and having unmet physical needs. When she is finally able to admit her own weakness and pain, she is then in the position to see the pain of others and gains the courage to ask for help on their behalf.

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED:

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV): “But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

Matthew 26:39-42 (NIV): “Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done.”

Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV): “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

SCENES TO REVIEW:

“Cyndi Talks with The Pastor”: 44:50 — 49:19

“Asking For Help”: 49:23 — 52:29

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think Cyndi is so insistent on telling everyone she’s fine when she’s clearly not? What do you think is holding her back? Fear? Shame? Bitterness?
- In the scene “Asking for Help,” Cyndi is finally vulnerable about her and Phillip’s struggles. What do you think gives her the courage to do it?
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV) says “I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” How do you think this applies to being vulnerable?
- Have you been in situations where you’ve found it hard to be honest with others about the struggles you’re facing and to ask for help? What made it difficult?
- How does Jesus set the example of being vulnerable in Matthew 26:39-42?
- We see that when Cyndi is able to be honest with others about her own pain, not only is she able to receive help, this actually empowers her to help others. Why do you think that is?

THEME TWO: COMPASSION

In the midst of Cyndi's grief and desperation while looking for Bobby, she finds compassion for the homeless population in her city.

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED:

Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV): "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Galatians 6:2 (NIV): "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Matthew 25:37-40 (NIV): "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 'The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV): "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

SCENES TO REVIEW:

"Homeless Man Asks for Help": 10:52 — 11:22

"Cyndi's Eyes Are Opened": 35:31 — 38:38

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- In the scene "Homeless Man Asks for Help," Cyndi does not see the homeless man outside of the car until he knocks on the window and then she quickly dismisses him. Why do you think Cyndi's reaction is so different this first time she is confronted with the chance to help someone compared to when she buys Delia dinner in the scene "Cyndi's Eyes Are Opened"?
- In the scene "Homeless Man Asks for Help," Phillip does see the homeless man and decides to help him even after watching his parents refuse. What do you think is the difference between his and his mother's perspectives that makes him respond so differently?
- Galatians 6:2 (NIV) tells us to "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." What does this mean to you?
- After Cyndi and Phillip have started collecting blankets, they are asked, "What has been the biggest challenge to everything you've been doing?" Phillip says, "Making people see what they usually try hard not to see." How can we open our eyes to the needs of people in our own city and learn to love them like Jesus?