



Discussion Guide for "Foreclosed"

This guide is for you to get some ideas that may be useful for you as you create a bible study and discussion guide for your group to use after watching the film.

Transforming from a v.5 Christian to a v.6 Christian

1 Timothy 6:5-6 "...supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain."

1st Timothy 6:6 is what the film was based on but you'll notice the theme of "Godliness" is developed from (at the *latest*) chapter 2, and continues all the way to (at *least*) 6:6, with 6:5 defining "contentment" by countering it with a picture of those who are "depraved" in pursuing (a form of) godliness "for gain."

In other words, the phrase "for gain" in v.5 is the definitional counterpoint to the word "contentment" in v.6.

Question: After reading through parts of 1 Timothy, *What does Paul mean by "contentment" in v.6 and how can you apply that to your life?*

Although 6:6 was the theme and message of the film, without saying it, the film is also very much about 6:5, in that the wife in the film begins as a "6:5" wife and learns to become a "6:6" wife.

Both the husband and wife needed to grow by letting go of the "for gain" part (6:5) and taking on the "contentment" part (6:6). They experienced this transformation in two slightly different ways.

Question – *"What can you do in your life to move from v.5 to v.6?"*

Entitlement Mentality

Another issue the couple is facing is an entitlement mentality. They believe, "we've done everything right, we're good Christians, we go to church, so why is this happening to us.

God allows adversity to bring maturity; He disciplines you through adversity.

Question – *"What's more valuable to you? Prosperity and wealth or growing in faith and your relationship with Christ?"*

God alone can take us from expecting temporal blessings to being grateful for God's care and feeding; the great Biblical theme of righteousness by faith - e.g., Habakkuk 2:4 - *"Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith"* - now there's an Old Testament expression of 1st Timothy 6:5-6!; seeking wise godly counsel in time of challenge and crisis; raising children in the way they should go; not running to the world's definitions of success and prosperity, but rather to God's; the importance of sanctification over temporal comforts; and more.

Question – *Do you expect things to go well for you and your family because you're doing everything right? Do you get mad at God when you've done your part but things don't go your way and so you think God isn't doing His part?*

Seasons in Life

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8: There is a season for everything. Sometimes it's good and sometimes it's bad but that is life.

In Philippians 4:11-13 Paul says, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

God doesn't edit out the difficult things so that we can sail through life without challenges. You don't get a special pass when you become a Christian.

Good Comes From Bad

Elaine, the wife in the film seeks out advice from her older sister. Terri suggests that good things can come from tough times. She taught that God allows tough times and does not often spell out His methods or objectives "in the moment," but rather foreknows and predetermines what is best for His people in terms of their growth and development in Christ.

God's plan is good. Ecclesiastes 3:11: He has made everything beautiful in His time. Everything that happens in our lives has a purpose. This plan also includes the difficult times.

Only in darkness can His light shine the brightest. You may not understand it and right now you may not know why. Paul wrote "we look through a glass darkly" so we don't see things clearly right now and you're not going to have all of the answers but the bottom line is that God's plan is good; even the difficult things!

There's a lot we don't understand, but don't let the things we don't understand keep you from the things you can enjoy.

John 10:10 - God came that we would have life and life more abundantly.

Being Thankful

It's easy to be thankful when things are good, but even under pressure, you can still be thankful. Thankful that God is still with you, that God knows your situation, and that He already has a purpose for all of it. You need to trust Him no matter what's happening in your life. Be thankful in spite of the problems that affect you.

Of course in the midst of the situation you're not going to say "God thank you that I lost my house this week." We don't give thanks to God for the circumstances; we give thanks to the God who lives above the circumstances because that's the God we serve.

Your gratitude should not be dependent on your circumstances. The ability to be thankful in everything is by having a relationship with him. To have a relationship with him, you must have a relationship with Christ.

Ecclesiastes says, be thankful and rejoice for the blessing of God in your life. During difficult times, if you're having a hard time being thankful, then write down everything in your life that you are thankful for and contemplate that. It can even be a journal that you can refer back to.

In everything give thanks. Though your circumstances have changed, the God you serve has not. No matter how you feel, God has not forgotten you. He will see you through it no matter what the outcome.

Marriage

The film's story may have ended quite different had the couple applied the world's remedies rather than a Christian remedy. Many marriages today are ending in divorce because they're resolving difficult times their own way and not the way God intended.

Question - *"As you're going through difficult times, how do you support each other rather than turn against each other?"*

As the film showed, children watch everything. No matter what is happening in your life, it can be an opportunity to teach your children life lessons about handling difficult times. By the children watching v.5 parents become v.6 parents and then by entering into the contentment and joy of the Lord with their "new" v.6 parents, the kids also experience growth.

Other Useful Questions

Question - *What examples do you have of when God was there during a difficult time?*

Question - *What other godly lessons can you identify in the film?*