



OFFICIAL CHURCH RESOURCE

Redemption River Church Discussion Guide

Faith Grief and Hope in the Deep Waters

A post-viewing resource for pastors, couples, families, and small groups

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

ISAIAH 43:2

redemptionriverfilm.com

ABOUT THE FILM

A Story of Survival Faith and Reconnection

After the death of their baby shatters their marriage and faith, Margo and Josh retreat to the wilderness hoping to reconnect. When a violent rafting accident leaves them injured and stranded, the river becomes their only way home. To survive, they must confront the grief pulling them apart and the question of whether God is still present when He seems silent.

SCRIPTURE AT THE HEART OF THE FILM

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

ISAIAH 43:2

Isaiah 43:2 does not promise that we will avoid deep waters. It promises that God is with us as we pass through them. The film does not offer an easy answer to grief. It invites viewers to consider how honest lament, faithful presence, and courageous love can help people endure suffering together.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- 01 Watch.** Participants watch individually or within their household through the official viewing link.
- 02 Prepare.** Share the content note before viewing and choose three or four questions that fit your group.
- 03 Gather.** Meet after viewing. Begin with the film, make personal sharing optional, and close by identifying available care and support.

Content note: Redemption River portrays stillbirth, parental grief, marital conflict, a scene suggesting suicidal thoughts, references to addiction and overdose, death and bereavement, and intense survival danger. Share this notice before viewing. Some people may choose not to watch or may prefer to watch with someone they trust.

THEMES AND DISCUSSION

Themes for Christian Conversation

God's Presence in Suffering. **Isaiah 43:2; Psalm 46:1-3.** God's presence does not mean hardship will disappear. The river becomes an image of moving through fear without moving through it alone.

Faith and Lament. **Psalm 13; Psalm 22:1; Mark 9:24.** Scripture makes room for grief, anger, and questions. Lament can be an honest expression of faith, not a failure of it.

Grief and Christian Hope. **Psalm 34:18; Romans 12:15; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.** Christian hope does not require people to minimize a loss or move quickly past it. It calls the church to mourn with those who mourn and offer patient presence.

Marriage and Shared Burdens. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Galatians 6:2; James 1:19.** Spouses may grieve in very different ways. Listening, patience, and asking rather than assuming can create room for repair.

Faith Put into Action. **Micah 6:8; James 2:17.** The film places prayer alongside truth-telling, practical care, and the courage to act when another person is in danger.

Discussion Questions

Leaders may choose three or four questions rather than trying to cover every question.

1. What does Isaiah 43:2 promise, and what does it not promise?
2. Where does the film show lament and faith existing together?
3. How do Margo and Josh respond differently to grief, and how does that create distance between them?
4. What moments begin to rebuild honesty and trust?
5. What do Ruth, Daniel, and the words Hank left behind offer that easy answers could not?
6. Where does the film show faith expressed through practical care or courageous action?
7. How can a church support parents after pregnancy or infant loss without rushing their grief, explaining the loss, or pressuring them to share?



LEADER CARE

Before You Lead the Conversation

- Share the content note before participants watch through the official viewing link.
- Begin with questions about the film and make all personal sharing optional.
- Let participants pass on any question, remain silent, or step away without explanation.
- Identify a pastor, pregnancy and infant loss support contact, and licensed counselor before the discussion.
- Follow each family's language and pace. Spouses may grieve differently, and neither response should be treated as a measure of love or faith.

Avoid explanations that assign a reason for the baby's death, suggest insufficient faith, or imply that another child could replace the child who died.

If someone needs immediate support: In the United States, call or text 988 for free and confidential crisis support, available 24 hours a day. Call 911 if someone is in immediate danger.

Optional Private Reflection for Couples

These prompts are for private conversation. Personal responses should not be required in the group discussion.

- What helps me feel heard when I am hurting?
- Where have I assumed rather than asked?
- What is one burden we can begin carrying together?

Closing Prayer

God, be near to all who are walking through grief, fear, or unanswered questions. Help us listen without trying to fix, speak with compassion, carry one another's burdens, and trust Your presence in the deepest waters. Amen.

WATCH DISCUSS SUPPORT

Continue the Conversation

Visit the website for the trailer, confirmed release information, official viewing link, and additional church resources.



redemptionriverfilm.com

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