



FAMILY
DISCUSSION
GUIDE

HARBINGER

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR LIFE DOES A 180?

INTRODUCTION

Hardflip follows the story of Caleb, a teenager whose ill mother and absent father leave him reaching for his dream of becoming a sponsored skater to get him away from all his troubles. After discovering a stack of old love letters, he sets out to find the father he never knew and inadvertently begins a journey he never could have expected. Caleb's story explores what happens when we let go of our anger and pain and forgive those who have hurt us the most.

Hardflip asks one of the most difficult questions anyone can face: "What do you do when your life does a 180?"



ABOUT THE DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide is designed to help your family or group have some deeper discussion about the important biblical themes found in *Hardflip*. You can use it for personal study and reflection as well.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

IDENTITY

Hardflip explores the issue of identity through the viewpoint of people from very different backgrounds. For Caleb and the other skaters, identity is found in their skills on the skateboard. For Jack, identity is found in the prestige and wealth that comes with his career. Caleb's mother, Bethany, is trying desperately to be a good parent and seeks her identity in pushing her son to fulfill the potential she sees in him. Unfortunately, she ends up pushing him away instead. Ultimately, the identities they are all striving to build are leaving them empty and unfulfilled.

QUESTIONS

Discuss the path Caleb, Jack, and Bethany took toward finding their identities. What factors influenced their decisions? How about you? What path are you traveling in your quest for your own unique identity? Are you finding fulfillment? Why or why not?

Read the Scripture passages below. What does God say about who you truly are in His eyes? How might these verses change your ideas about your own identity?

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR DISCUSSION

"I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me," says the Lord Almighty. 2 CORINTHIANS 6:18 ESV

To all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn – not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. JOHN 1:12-13 NLT

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. COLOSSIANS 3:12 NIV





FORGIVENESS

Jack, Bethany, and Caleb each take a journey in *Hardflip*, and each one faces a “180.” As they discover how their lives are intertwined, they each find a deep need to forgive and be forgiven. Bethany seeks forgiveness for her failings as a parent and her dishonesty with Caleb about the true nature of her relationship with his father. Caleb is filled with remorse when he faces the prospect of losing his mother before he can seek her forgiveness for his bitterness toward her. Jack is shaken out of his confidence and arrogance when he realizes how much he hurt both Bethany and Caleb and how much he lost when he turned his back on them.



QUESTIONS

How did the circumstances and experiences in the lives of each of the characters bring them to the point of forgiveness? How did forgiveness change each of them?

Think about your own life. Is there someone you need to forgive? How might your life change if you did? What do you need to do to make things right?

PRAYER

Take a few minutes to pray. Ask God to help you be open to forgiveness. Let your Father speak to you through these verses.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR DISCUSSION

[Jesus said,] “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” LUKE 6:37 NIV

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It’s your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. COLOSSIANS 3:12-14 MSG

Most of all, love one another deeply. Love erases many sins by forgiving them.
1 PETER 4:8 NIRV

NEW BEGINNINGS

“What do you do when your life does a 180?” The answer to this question is the theme of *Hardflip*, and it is revealed by an unlikely source. Ralph, the dreadlocked homeless man, speaks truth with his handmade signs. With a few powerful words scrawled on scraps of trash, Ralph becomes a prophet, helping Caleb discover his way to a new beginning. Life often throws us a curve, and we find ourselves reeling. We wonder where God is in the midst of our struggle and pain. Yet, just as Caleb, Bethany, and Jack discover in *Hardflip*, the very circumstances that bring us the most turmoil are often the ones that bring us the most growth.

Through illness, poverty, and loss, the characters in *Hardflip* discover each other and rediscover God. In the end, God uses pain to bring about new life and new beginnings.

QUESTIONS

How did Bethany, Caleb, and Jack handle the pain they faced? Did these ways of coping bring them what they were longing for? Why or why not?

Are you facing some pain right now? How have you been dealing with the struggle? Are you allowing the trial to help you grow and learn?

PRAYER

Take some time to pray and listen in quiet to the voice of your Father. Seek His guidance. Look to Him to redeem your circumstances and bring you a new beginning.



SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR DISCUSSION

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 NKJV

“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

JEREMIAH 29:11 NIV

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. ISAIAH 61:1-3A NIV

FURTHER STUDY

Read the “180” story of Joseph in Genesis chapters 37, 39-45 to see how he discovered that God can bring incredible redemption out of terrible circumstances.



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