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# LOVE FINDS A HOME

STUDY GUIDE



FROM BEST-SELLING AUTHOR  
JANETTE OKE

FROM THE *Love Comes Softly* SERIES

## ABOUT THE FILM

Love Finds a Home is the eighth and final installment in the Love Comes Softly film series from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment. Inspired by the faith-based novels written by Janette Oke, the series follows three generations of women confronted with the challenges of living as wives and mothers and laboring in a male-dominated profession in the old American West.

In this final film, Dr. Belinda Owens cares for her best friend, Dr. Annie Watson, during Annie's pregnancy. Disappointed and saddened by her own inability to conceive, Belinda must put aside her own frustrations when Annie's pregnancy takes an unexpected turn for the worst.

To make matters even worse, Annie's mother-in-law, Mary, is a seen-it-all nursemaid whose homeopathic remedies and folksy wisdom are often at odds with Belinda's medical training. Mary's resistance to Belinda's scientific approach to medicine ends up causing tension between the friends.

In addition to dealing with the headaches Mary is causing, Belinda must also address issues at home. While her marriage is suffering from her inability to conceive, her adopted daughter, Lillian, discovers the joys and pains of a first love.

Belinda must not only overcome her own problems but also resolve her differences with Mary so Belinda may support her best friend when she needs Belinda most. Just as the town has learned to put its faith in Belinda as their doctor, so too must Belinda learn to accept that the best answers for her own problems may come from unlikely sources.



## ABOUT THE DISCUSSION GUIDE

Love Finds a Home is a film for the entire family. In a world full of shallow love, this film meets a desperate need for a serious portrayal of actual love played out through the tragedies and triumphs of real life. In this discussion guide, we'll look at what happens when our patience runs out. How does it affect our relationships and does it affect our faith in God? We'll also learn how selfish pride can manifest itself in our attitudes and interactions with others. Instead of desiring to be the best we can be, pride causes us to focus solely on being "better" than someone else. We'll learn how to eradicate pride and develop a Christ-like attitude. We'll discuss the importance of compassion and meeting the needs of those who are suffering regardless of our circumstances. We'll learn what true compassion is and how we can learn to sacrifice our selfish motives in an effort to minister to others more effectively.

We suggest that you first watch the film in its entirety, and then follow with the discussion and Bible readings. Related scriptures are provided for a more in-depth study of the themes. Discussion questions, based on key concepts from the film, are also included to further enhance your study. As we follow the story of Dr. Belinda Owens and her friends, we learn how seeking God and His wisdom in identifying the roots of our problems frees us to be used by God and experience His joy.

# DEVELOPING PATIENCE AND ENDURANCE

## Scripture References:

Luke 1:45; James 5:7-11  
Psalm 37:34; Romans 8:25  
Romans 15:5; Romans 8:28  
2 Peter 3:8-9

## DISCUSSION THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS

Impatience is a form of unbelief. It's what we begin to feel when we start to doubt the wisdom of God's timing or the goodness of His guidance. Belinda was growing impatient after years of struggling to become pregnant. Her impatience manifests itself in several ways—jealousy of her best friend Annie's pregnancy, resentment of her patient, Mabel, who "has had six children in eight years," and doubt in her own faith as she poses a question to her husband Lee, "What if God does not want us to have a baby?" In these moments we must remember that God does not work on the same schedule we do. His timing is perfect and always represents what is best for us.

- Have you been praying for something and not yet received it? Share with the group and read and discuss the significance of Luke 1:45.
- Do you think patience comes naturally? Do you have it as a child, or is it something that is learned, as you get older and more mature?
- Why do you need patience? What benefits come when you are patient? Where can you learn about the benefits of patience? How would you know if someone was patient? James 5:7-11; Psalm 37:34
- How do you balance patience with expecting results?

Patience literally means, "long-tempered" and is sometimes translated longsuffering, perseverance, or endurance. Impatience with God's timing leads us to be impatient with other people, and this often causes us to hurt the ones we love. Belinda's obsession with her inability to conceive impacted other areas of her life. With no 'real emergencies' to treat in Sikeston, she felt unfulfilled professionally and even wondered if the town needed a doctor. Because of her husband's long hours at work, Belinda also convinced herself of his displeasure with her inability to become pregnant. Both assumptions were false. We can all find our patience tested in some way every day. God allows these incidents to develop our perseverance—which in turn strengthens our character, deepens our trust in Him, and gives us a greater confidence about the future.

- How do seasons of waiting on God affect your relationship with your spouse, children, family, or co-workers?
- Has there ever been a time in your life when relationships suffered because of a lack of communication or patience?
- We all lose our patience from time to time. What are some situations in which you become frustrated and lose your patience? Do these situations usually involve things or people?
- Why should believers, of all people, have a patient spirit? How does God develop patience in our lives? Romans 8:25; Romans 15:5



No one is a Lone Ranger Christian. We all need to seek out and listen to the wisdom and experience of godly men and women who have walked farther with the Lord in life than we have. Mary was eager to provide her wisdom and experience to Belinda, but Belinda believed all Mary could offer was “wives tales” and nonsense. Relaxing and reading a good book prior to bed did not line up with Belinda’s scientific knowledge of conception. A prideful and self-righteous attitude that shuts others out can hinder our ability to hear from God. At these times we need the help of others to sort through our feelings and to find God’s plan for our lives.

- Has there been a time when you were provided counsel that at first seemed ridiculous, but later turned out to be correct?
- What are some situations where pride keeps us from seeking Godly counsel?
- What are some good guidelines for choosing Godly counsel?

## LESSON TO LEARN

Patience is one of the most difficult fruits of the Spirit to develop. While people experience differing degrees of patience, it’s a virtue most Christians wish they possessed in greater amounts.

As Belinda becomes increasingly impatient with her inability to conceive, she finds herself desiring what others have, and as a result, her marriage suffers. Waiting for prayers to be answered can be frustrating. After all, advertising tells us that the “now” matters. This impatience can build up resentment toward those we love and care about.

Sometimes we look for an immediate response to our prayers. There are times when God answers right away, but there are also times when we must wait: days, weeks, months, years, and yes, even decades. Romans 8:28 tells us that God is working for the good in our lives. However, our version of good might not match His.

Simply put, God does not work in our time, “...with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” (2 Peter 3:8-9, Amplified Bible). Our time often reflects impatience and/or selfish motives. God’s timing reflects patience and goodness.

Zacharias and Elizabeth are perfect examples of this truth—even though they had grown quite old, they remained faithful despite not having their desire for a child fulfilled (Luke 1). God had a purpose. His wait was not to torture them or even to tempt them to doubt Him. He had them wait because their child would be the forerunner of something great. Their child could not be born until Mary’s child, Jesus, was ready to enter the earth as well.

God has excellent timing. He does everything with a purpose in mind. Zacharias and Elizabeth could have had John years earlier, but John would have missed his purpose.

Most likely you have something you want right now. Ask God to examine your heart and see if you are ready for those things. Ask Him also to provide the patience and perseverance necessary to wait. Remember that God’s plan and purpose for your life can only be fulfilled by you. His timing is perfect and significant to the advancement of His Kingdom.



# ERADICATING PRIDE

**Scripture References:**  
Proverbs 26:12; Romans 12:16  
Psalm 138:6; Proverbs 16:18  
Ecclesiastes 7:8  
1 Corinthians 13:4; James 4:10

## DISCUSSION THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS

Pride sneaks up on us and leads to other sins. Pride often masquerades as knowledge and confidence. Belinda, Mary, and Annie were all confident in their individual abilities to diagnose Annie's health condition. However, instead of pooling their knowledge and experience to develop a plan of action, they wasted time arguing about who was right. A prideful person can't handle criticism, hates handing out apologies, can't stand to see others succeed, and refuses to do menial tasks. If Jesus, as the Word made flesh, was willing to wash the feet of His disciples, is there anything that we should refuse to do?

- In what areas of your life do you have pride (your talents and gifts, your looks, your wealth, your friends, your family, your car, your house, your knowledge, your social status, etc.)?
- According to Proverbs 26:12, what does a prideful person tend to think about himself?
- According to Romans 12:16, what attitude do prideful people develop toward other people?
- According to Psalm 138:6, how does God look upon those who are prideful?

Perhaps one of the most obvious characteristics of the proud is a spirit that is not teachable. Being teachable means we listen with the intention of gaining wisdom and knowledge, and then we practice that which we are taught. Belinda believed that a mid-wife was nothing more than a glorified nurse whose job was to assist the doctor. Not advise. Mary thought that thirty years of delivering babies provided all the experience needed and that modern medical advancements were futile.

- How quick are you to admit when you are wrong?  
How willing are you to ask someone to forgive you?
- How ready are you to listen to reason or to take correction?  
Can you honestly evaluate its truth without getting angry?
- According to Proverbs 16:18, what comes after pride? Do you remember a time when you fell because you were doing something out of pride?



The importance of ridding out pride from our lives cannot be overstated. Pride can be one of the most difficult struggles for the Christian walk and damages our witness to others. Seeking forgiveness from those your pride has hurt is a good first step in eradicating pride from your life. Belinda made intentional efforts to ask for forgiveness from Mary, Annie, Llyod, and Mabel. God does not walk with the proud but with the lowly of heart. Because pride is such an enemy to our relationship with God, we must by all means eradicate it from our hearts and minds.

- According to Ecclesiastes 7:8, what is better than pride? Which one of these do you practice the most?
- According to 1 Corinthians 13:4, what is a very important characteristic of love that has to do with pride? How are love and pride related?
- According to James 4:10, what do people need to do in order to deal with pride in their lives? What will God do if we humble ourselves before him?

## LESSON TO LEARN

Pride is an attitude that manifests itself in the form of ingratitude, arrogance, haughtiness, intolerance of others, high-mindedness, lack of concern for the welfare of others, and unwillingness to be taught.

Most often, pride is revealed in our attitudes and interactions with others. Instead of desiring to be the best we can be, pride causes us to focus solely on being “better” than someone else. Pride is a sin that leads to many others. Inevitably, this keeps us separated from the blessings of God.

Pride is different from other sins and is impossible to fight externally. Pride is not like having a foul mouth or being an alcoholic: problems that can largely be stopped through actions of habit. Pride is a direct reflection of our heart and our relationship with God. Therefore, overcoming pride requires an internal transformation and an adjustment in how we view ourselves in light of God’s grace.

The only cure for pride is our understanding God more clearly and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. In addition, we must accept and practice complete utter reliance on Him and not ourselves.

Dealing with our pride is an ongoing process, one that— as we grow in our relationship with Christ—gets easier and easier. Developing the same attitude as Christ as noted in Philippians 2:5-11 is a great place to start.

By following this example, the pride in our lives will slowly begin to dissipate. We will also become people more focused on the lives of others. If we want to live a passionate life for Christ, we must accept this truth and eradicate pride from our lives.



## Scripture References:

Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 3:8-9  
Mark 2:1-12; Lamentations 3:22  
Matthew 18:27; Luke 15: 20;  
Luke 10:33; Mark 6:34; Luke 7:13

## DISCUSSION THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS

Compassion is defined as a sympathetic consciousness of others' distress along with a desire to alleviate it. It's to experience deep sympathy and feelings of sorrow for someone who is hurting physically, mentally or emotionally. Preoccupation with their own personal issues prevented Belinda and Lloyd McQueen from having compassion for Lloyd's wife Mabel. Mabel was both emotionally and physically drained and desperate for someone to help care for her needs. It's been said that the way we treat others is often a direct reflection of our current relationship with God.

- How do our daily struggles prevent us from being compassionate to others?
- When has the compassion of others impacted your life in a positive way?
- Is it easier to express compassion than to receive it? Explain why you feel the way you do.
- Do our childhood experiences affect our ability to show compassion as adults?

When we feel true compassion, we will first be moved inwardly. That includes being empathic, tenderhearted, sensitive and affectionate—to be moved with tender feelings over the feelings of another. Lee was a very good father, and like most men, his natural instinct was to protect his daughter. This instinct soon became more important than his daughter's emotions and feelings. As parents, it's our responsibility to 'discipline' and 'guide our children in the way they should go,' but we are to do so in a way that does not discourage them.

- Compassion is the opposite of selfishness. What sacrifices can we make to be compassionate to others this week?
- According to Colossians 3:12, we are to clothe ourselves with compassion. What does this mean to you?
- God tells us in 1 Peter 3:8-9 to be compassionate and humble. Why is humility an important part of being compassionate?

We all deserve God's punishment, but God wants to show us compassion, mercy and forgiveness. His heart is tender and compassionate toward us. As thanks to God for His compassion, Christians should care more deeply about others and demonstrate concern for them. When it becomes evident that Annie does have eclampsia, compassion moves both Belinda and Mary into action with a united goal—to save both Annie and the baby. Compassion isn't just a feeling, but it leads to action. Daily, we encounter so many people with both physical and spiritual needs that we can meet or assist in meeting. Our compassion must always lead to action governed by a kind, loving attitude.

- In Mark 2:1-12 we read of the paralytic's need and how it moved his friends to action. When have the needs of a friend moved you to action?
- Why is compassion without any action useless?
- True compassion cannot only be sympathy and pity. What else must it be?



## LESSON TO LEARN

Of all human emotions, compassion is the deepest felt. It moves within the deepest part of a person's being. Our God is clearly revealed as a God of compassion. Jeremiah knew from personal experience about God's compassion when he said in Lamentations 3:22 (New King James Version) "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not." When we ask, the Lord will willingly respond. God's steadfast love and mercy are greater than any sin in your life, and the Lord promises forgiveness.

God's compassion is demonstrated many times by the parables of Jesus in the New Testament:

- In the parable of the unforgiving servant, the master had compassion and forgave the servant's debt (Matthew 18:27).
- We also see where the prodigal son's father had compassion on him (Luke 15:20).
- The parable of the Good Samaritan who had compassion on the injured traveler is told in Luke 10:33.
- The Lord had compassion on the crowd in Mark 6:34.

God first demonstrated mercy and compassion for us by allowing His Son to die on a Roman cross. He did this to save us from sin and all consequences. Receiving mercy and compassion from God should translate into an outflow of compassion from our hearts to others. As those who have received compassion, we no longer have the right to overlook the needy in our world.

Real compassion doesn't leave any room for selfishness. When motivated by true compassion, a person will deny himself so he can help others in dealing with their needs and sufferings. As people impart and assist others, they are drawn together.

In Luke 7:13, Jesus has compassion on a widow whose son has died. It is important to note that Jesus' heart was broken at this woman's circumstance. He was not unattached to the people of the earth. His heart was tender to them. Jesus was extremely interested in the lives of everyday people—interested enough to be actively looking and noticing.

If, as Christians, we are to be transformed into the image of Christ, we should, like Him, be sharing in the joys and burdens of one another's circumstances. When we sacrifice and reach out to each other, a bond is formed that creates opportunities for us to minister to one another more effectively.

