

# NEW HEIGHTS

## DISCUSSION

### AT THE MOVIES

#### "The Finest Hours" Life Group Discussion

#### Big Idea

Based on the true story of what has been called the “greatest small boat rescue in history,” The Finest Hours is an amazing story of the determination to rescue men from certain death. On February 18, 1952, two tankers were split in half by storms. One managed to send out a signal, so all help was allocated to its side, while the other tanker fought to survive long enough for radar signals to spot it, and for rescue to come. A small crew of four men, led by Bernie Webber, went out on what most considered a suicide mission to rescue any survivors on the tanker. Those four men were willing to lay down their lives for another, which points to the same passion that Jesus modeled to save all humanity, as well as the commission the church has to reach the world with the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### Read

**Psalm 18:16-19** He reached down from heaven and rescued me; he drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemies, from those who hated me and were too strong for me. They attacked me at a moment when I was in distress, but the Lord supported me. He led me to a place of safety; he rescued me because he delights in me.

**Isaiah 63:9 (Msg.)** In all their troubles, he was troubled, too. He didn’t send someone else to help them. He did it himself, in person. Out of his own love and pity he redeemed them. He rescued them and carried them along for a long, long time.

**Galatians 1:4** Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live

**Acts 13:36** ...after David had done the will of God in his own generation, he died...

**John 15:12-13** This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends

**2 Corinthians 1:8-9** It was so bad we didn’t think we were going to make it. We felt like we’d been sent to death row, that it was all over for us. As it turned out, it was the best thing that could have happened. Instead of trusting in our own strength or wits to get out of it, we were forced to trust God totally—not a bad idea since he’s the God who raises the dead!

**John 8:12** Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.

#### Little About Me

Take a moment and share how someone reached out to you, and helped you when you needed help. How did that make you feel?

## **Discussion**

- Do you think it was worth the lives of four men when they didn't even know if there were any men to save on that tanker in the first place? How much is a life worth?
- In looking at the above passages, which one speaks to you the most and why?
- What role did the townspeople play in helping save the rescue boat?
- Have you ever been in a position like Bernie's - where people were counting on you, but you felt lost and in need of rescuing yourself? Take a moment and share a little bit about that moment.
- Who do you know that might be like Bernie - a rescuer in need of some relief, help, or care in various areas? And what can you do to help?

## **Prayer Focus**

Pray for God to connect you with people who need rescued and are hurting, and ask for the opportunity to help them by sharing what God has taught you. Pray for courage, strength, and the right words to show them compassion.

## **Next Steps**

Identify someone you can help through a difficult situation. Serve them by using your personal experience to encourage them. Share your story, and let them know you are there to support them through their struggles.

## **Leader Tip**

Encourage your group members to serve others; maybe you can discuss the idea of connecting with a local partnership or going on a Missions Trip. If there is someone in your group that is struggling make sure there are people in your group that will help them through their trial.