

FLOWERS FOR FANNIE DISCUSSION GUIDE

Love, Compassion, Friendship, Purpose, Determination

Mrs. Fairchild, a widow for 60 years, was consumed with finding someone to put flowers on her grave after she has died. Why do you suppose this is important to her and this generation? *This seems to be an important act of honor and remembrance.*

Power of Music:

- What do you think was the significance in the song sang at church was *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*? *Whatever is going on in life, we need to lean on God and depend on him.*
- One stormy night, Louise sang *It is Well With My Soul*. Why? *It was comforting to her as she dealt with the sad feelings of losing her parents in a bus accident.*
- What was the significance of the song *Love Lifted Me* sang by Claire at Louise's wedding? *Love is what lifted Louise and Fannie out of the depths of their grief.*
- The songs sang in this movie were all hymns. How important do you think hymns might be to this generation?

Louise observes one family member trying to take advantage of Fannie for the family fortune. Would you try to protect a senior who is being taken advantage of?

What was the significance of the sewing club? *Louise knew Fannie's background (economics teacher & principal). She found a way to give Fannie purpose and a place to connect and be with others with similar interests.*

Why did Louise introduce Fannie to the man with the cat? *Louise wanted Fannie to have someone to spend time with now that Louise was married.*

Which character did you admire most? Why?

What character is most like you? How?

- Fannie Fairchild – complainer, never happy, never her fault, lonely, grieving
- Plumber Jim – helpful, knowledgeable, handyman, caring
- Louise Martin – compassionate, lonely, grieving
- Great Nephew Gordon – selfish
- Trevor Conner – just moved to town, persistent, creative, man of faith
- Housekeeper Claire – patient, says what she thinks, faithful, hard worker

What virtues did you see exemplified in this movie? *Love, persistence, patience, advocacy, compassion*

What would you consider to be the main point of the story? Do you agree or disagree with that point? *Loving the unlovable, no matter their age. Everyone needs purpose. Reach out to lonely people.*

How do the morals onscreen compare with the values you've been learning at home, school or church?

What might happen if you imitate the choices or behaviors of the people in this movie?

Do you agree/disagree with these quotes from the movie? Why?

- You've been given a wake-up call like every day is your last; make it count.
- Reach out to those who seem unlovable because sometimes those who hardest to love need love the most.
- One man's trash is another man's treasure.

BIBLE EXERCISE: Bible Drill: Look up the following for practice and discuss:

- **Complaining:** *Do everything without grumbling and arguing,* Philippians 2:14
- **Determination:** *So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up.* Galatians 6:9
- **Grief:** *Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God.* 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- **Money:** *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.* 1 Timothy 6:10
- **Kindness:** *Treat others the way you would want to be treated.* Luke 6:31
- **Love:** Luke 6:27-36 ²⁷ *“But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone hits you on the cheek, offer the other also. And if anyone takes away your coat, don't hold back your shirt either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and from one who takes your things, don't ask for them back. ³¹ Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them. ³² If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do what is good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do what is good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is gracious to the ungrateful and evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.*

ACTION:

- Who can you honor and remember by putting flowers on their grave?
- Do you know a Mrs. Fairchild? How can you show consistent kindness to her?
- Hymns and other music can be of comfort to a seniors. Locate an old device to download hymns on. Give it to a senior with a set of headphones!
- What or who can you connect a senior with to give them purpose, joy, and fulfillment?