St. Paul's Lutheran Church





Small Things Like These | Small Group Discussion

The Courage to SEE…CHOOSE…ACT.

Each group will explore a key moment or theme from Claire Keegan's novella or film and connect it to Scripture, faith, and our own call to discipleship. Then, we'll transition to whole group reflections.

Each group will receive:	**Transition to Whole Group Reflection**
• A Point to Ponder • A Verse to Remember • A Question to Consider • A Message to Hear Discuss and reflect.	Bill Furlong's journey moves through three simple but powerful steps: **SEE** what others overlook. **CHOOSE** what is right. **ACT** with courage and compassion. As we share our insights together, consider where you see yourself in that journey and what God may be calling you to do next.

GROUP ONE: SEE | Seeing What Others Ignore

Focus: Bill Furlong's discovery and willingness to pay attention.

Point to Ponder | Throughout the novella, Bill notices what many others have learned to ignore. He sees signs of hardship in his town, remembers his own family's vulnerability, and recognizes the suffering hidden behind the convent walls. While others choose not to look too closely, Bill allows himself to truly see.

Verse to Remember | *"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."* **Philippians 2:4**

Question to Consider | What prevents people from noticing the struggles or suffering of others?

- What signs of need might we be overlooking in our own community?
- How does faith help us see our neighbors differently?

Message to Hear | Faith begins with paying attention. We cannot respond to what we refuse to see.

GROUP TWO: CHOOSE | The Cost of Compassion

Focus: Bill's internal struggle and the choice between comfort and courage.

Point to Ponder | As Bill wrestles with what he has discovered, he understands that helping someone in need may come with consequences. He risks upsetting powerful people, creating tension in his family, and disrupting the comfortable silence of his community. The story asks a difficult question: What will we choose when doing the right thing costs us something?

Verse to Remember | *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* **Galatians 6:2**

Question to Consider | What makes it difficult to do the right thing?

- Have you ever faced a situation where conscience and convenience pulled you in different directions?
- How does faith guide our choices when the path forward is unclear?

Message to Hear | Faithful discipleship often begins with a difficult choice. Courage is choosing compassion when it would be easier to look away.

GROUP THREE: ACT | Small Actions, Lasting Impact

Focus: Bill's response, our calling to serve our neighbors and Lutheran vocation.

Point to Ponder | Bill cannot fix every injustice he encounters. He cannot change an entire system by himself. Yet he discovers that one compassionate action can profoundly change a life. The novella reminds us that God often works through ordinary people who are willing to take one faithful step.

Verse to Remember | *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* **Matthew 25:40**

Question to Consider | Can small actions make a meaningful difference? Why or why not?

- What needs do you see in our church, community, or world that call for action?
- What is one faithful step God may be inviting you to take?

Message to Hear | No act of compassion is insignificant. God's love becomes visible through ordinary people who choose to act.
