



IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE ...

NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

# MY <sup>+</sup> BROTHER'S KEEPER

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

# MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

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By: Dr. Scott Silverii

The film MY BROTHER'S KEEPER offers a moving personal depiction of some of the challenges and trauma our service men and women and first responders experience as they fight for our freedoms and our safety. Travis Fox and Preach are fictional characters but represent a composite of real people

The film brings to life the real human struggles, fears, and challenges we all experience on a daily basis. But the movie also powerfully depicts the unique and traumatic situations faced by those who serve in our military and as first responders, trying to live out their faith in the midst of life-threatening moments and constant danger. Just like us, they wrestle with daily uncertainties, seeking to live what they believe as they experience God's ongoing transformation within.

This Movie Discussion Guide is meant for small groups, youth groups, families, and individuals to use in conjunction with watching MY BROTHER'S KEEPER. As you use this guide to foster discussion about the themes and ideas presented in the movie, we encourage you to keep an open mind and heart.

In this guide, you'll find three sections which include a clip from the movie, devotional and Scriptures to explore, followed by engaging questions which will guide a conversation about the overall themes of the film. Use any or all of the elements to facilitate meaningful conversations and further steps of faith!

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER portrays a powerful look at the life of returning war veteran SFC Travis Fox, who has one more battle to fight – PTSD. It deals with themes including love, grace, guilt, forgiveness, God's will, redemption, and more. Because any open discussion can go in many directions, encourage your group to listen and speak respectfully and compassionately to all.

This guide contains spoilers,  
and is intended to use after a group has seen the film.

Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise.  
Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light. - Micah 7:8

## DISCUSSION #1



Do you ever wonder where God is in your daily life? Have you doubted, become angry or even rejected the existence of God in the midst of your darkest seasons? We have the default nature of turning away from God when we actually need Him most.

A crisis of faith can set you on a path of separating yourself from His will if not resolved through confession, repentance and restoration. Times of crisis where trauma is experienced is when God draws most near to the broken-hearted, but unfortunately, it's in those experiences we may doubt He even exists at all.

In **MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**, United States Army Ranger, SFC Travis Fox struggles not only with the ravages of war and PTSD, but also the death of his parents in a car crash. Having hidden his pain by focusing on combat, he's confronted in truth and love about his separation from God by his best friend, SFC Ron "Preach" Percy. Refusing to simply pray with Preach before he sets out on a dangerous mission, Fox rejects God's love and questions where He is in the midst of human calamity.

As we move through the next five discussions, Micah 7:8 will serve as our anchor scripture. We all face enemies in life and even when it seems hope is lost and the adversary is set to crush us, God is always with us. SFC Travis Fox battled enemy soldiers and his own trauma, what enemies are you facing today?

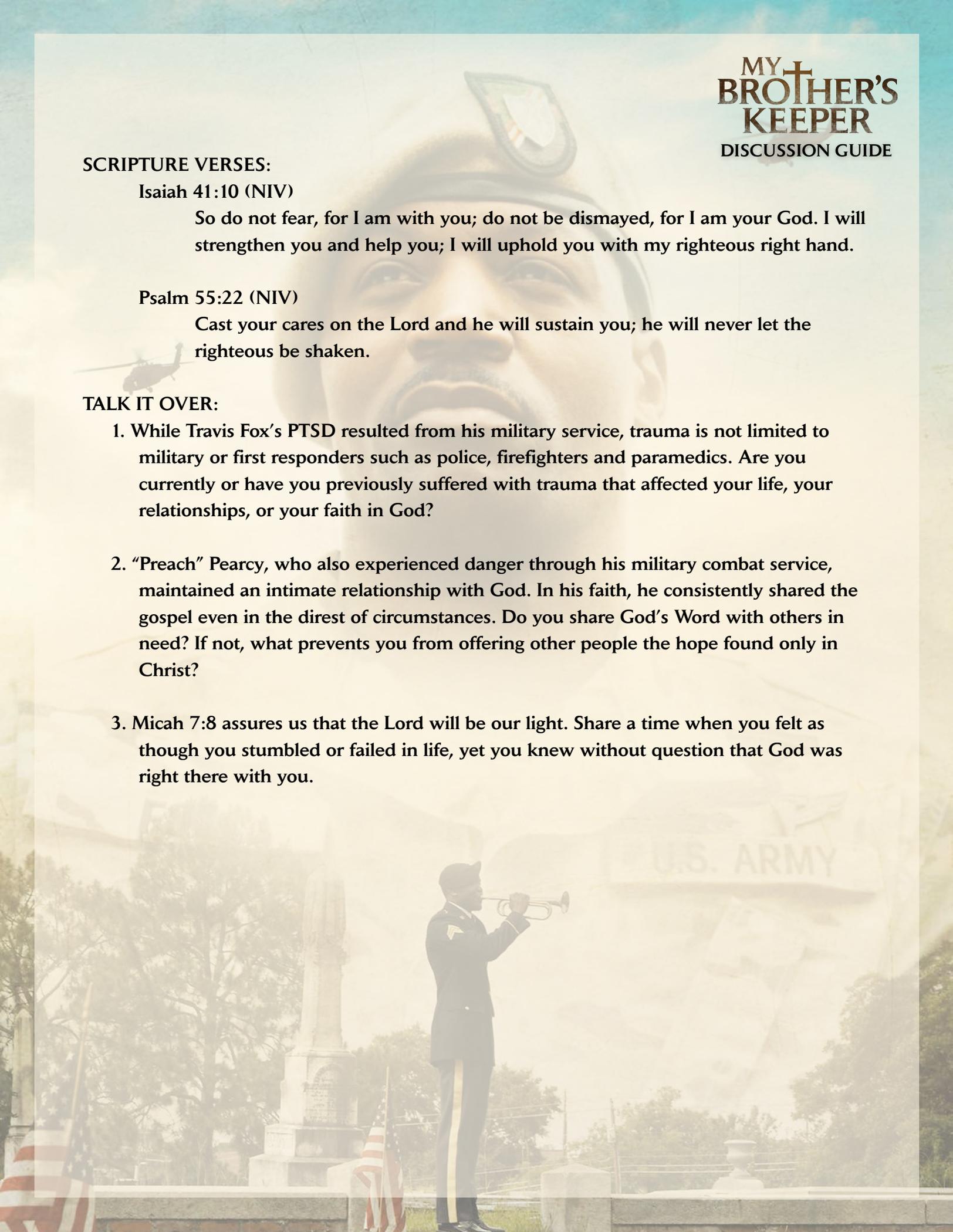
### CALL TO ACTION:

Identify areas in your life that cause trauma, pain, shame or guilt. Meditate on Session 1's key scriptures and pray for experiencing God's presence in your season of trials.

### SCRIPTURE VERSES:

Genesis 4:9 (NIV)

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied "Am I my brother's keeper?"



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**SCRIPTURE VERSES:**

**Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)**

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

**Psalms 55:22 (NIV)**

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.

**TALK IT OVER:**

1. While Travis Fox's PTSD resulted from his military service, trauma is not limited to military or first responders such as police, firefighters and paramedics. Are you currently or have you previously suffered with trauma that affected your life, your relationships, or your faith in God?
2. "Preach" Percy, who also experienced danger through his military combat service, maintained an intimate relationship with God. In his faith, he consistently shared the gospel even in the direst of circumstances. Do you share God's Word with others in need? If not, what prevents you from offering other people the hope found only in Christ?
3. Micah 7:8 assures us that the Lord will be our light. Share a time when you felt as though you stumbled or failed in life, yet you knew without question that God was right there with you.

## DISCUSSION #2



Trauma can come in various forms. Travis Fox's pain is rooted to his military career and the physical injuries suffered along with the loss of life in war. His childhood friend, Donnie "Sweat Suit" Berry is suffering from the guilt of sin concealed in the darkness of deceit. God's loving nature cannot look upon sin. That is why God offered His beloved son, Jesus, as the final atoning sacrifice for our sins. To seek the Father requires repentance of our sin and a pursuit of Jesus Christ.

Once we begin to struggle in our faith walk as we find ourselves in distressing situations, things like stress, fear, and other strong emotions, such as paranoia and despair can amplify the feelings of social and spiritual isolation. For example, besides PTSD, Travis Fox is also tormented with survivor's guilt, which is a mental condition where the person feels they have done something wrong by actually surviving an incident where someone else did not.

It's important to understand that unless we stop digging our own holes and surrender the shovel to God, that we will never work or wait ourselves out of concealed transgressions. Even in our sufferings, God's grace is sufficient.

### CALL TO ACTION:

Over the course of this week, pray for God to reveal to you areas in your life where the darkness of sin has not been confessed. God allowed Jesus to die on the cross so that you may know freedom from sin, but only if you confess and renounce them. Once revealed, confess your sins and ask God for forgiveness.

### SCRIPTURE VERSES:

2 Timothy 2:1 (NIV)

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

John 6:44 (NIV)

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

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**Proverbs 28:13 (NIV)**

**Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.**

**TALK IT OVER:**

- 1. Although Travis Fox rejected a plea to show grace for others less fortunate, he found solace and peace in extending himself to helping others by fixing the veterans center. When you are in a season of friction do you recoil from others or do you press forward to reflect the light of Christ through good works? Discuss what that looks like either way and what can be done to ensure we always focus on extending God's grace to others.**
- 2. Once Travis Fox surrendered to God's tug on his heart, he still struggled with how to find Jesus Christ. Having the will but not knowing the way is a common occurrence for people seeking to surrender to a calling that they are unfamiliar with. Share your testimony and how it was you came to know Jesus Christ.**
- 3. Sin does not come without consequences, and Donnie's refusal to confess his sin placed him in an atmosphere separated from God as well as putting his loved ones in physical danger. Discuss ways to encourage people struggling with unconfessed sin to find the assurance of forgiveness in God.**



## DISCUSSION #3



Do you ever find yourself losing faith in seemingly impossible situations? Maybe your enemy has you outnumbered and there is no way of escaping the attack, but faith means lingering in the presence of God with a bold expectancy of His miraculous works.

Growing in the maturity of our faith doesn't come quick, easy, or without testing. It's like exercising a muscle. The more it's placed under strain, the stronger and more resilient that muscle becomes. If we remain persistent and press into the presence of God, He will provide grace that is sufficient. It's natural to want relief from our burdens as immediate as possible, but that isn't always God's way.

Travis Fox had begun to find moments of peace and a new friendship with Dr. Tiffany Robinson. These moments in safe harbor are times of respite from life's storms, but it doesn't mean that peace comes with an absence of chaos. Similar to the way the loud noise triggered Travis Fox's PTSD flashback response, we must be aware that tough times will remain a part of life, but God also remains a much bigger presence as well.

When we cling to the reality that our cause must be greater than our circumstances, then we'll learn to weather the storms by focusing on the higher ideals rather than our temporary comfort.

### CALL TO ACTION:

This week continue to anchor your focus on Micah 7:8 (NIV)

Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness,  
the LORD will be my light.

Do you have an adversary that is getting under your skin and your natural inclination is to retaliate? Stop giving those who anger you, your attention. Keep your eyes and focus on God on high and you'll enjoy a peace that surpasses all understanding.

**SCRIPTURE VERSES:**

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 John 5:5 (NIV)

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Mark 16:16 (NIV)

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**TALK IT OVER:**

1. The pistol pressing against Travis Fox’s head as he stood in the rain on the church’s front lawn, was a powerful illustration of the depth of despair we can feel during our toughest seasons. Share a time when you were ready to give up on the possibility of Christ rescuing you. How did that experience transform your faith?
2. Dr. Tiffany Robinson’s presence in Travis Fox’s life is similar to how we see in other people what we need to help us heal. These divine alignments are God ordained connections that help us to see the tangible possibilities of restoration. Discuss a time where you served as a mentor or source of comfort for someone struggling in their life. Were there times where you found your Dr. Tiffany Robinson who walked you through a time of turmoil with faith-based influence?
3. Pastor Quentin Hood told Travis Fox that he’d seen God turn tragedies into miracles. In the same respect, God will use your mess as His message. Are you comfortable sharing your testimony with others one-on-one or with groups of people? Describe how it feels to be God’s conduit for blessing other people with His message?

## DISCUSSION #4



Being our brother's keeper can look so different depending where we are in our walk with Christ. Discussion 4 is a powerful example of caring for one another, and the truth is that it's not always a simple task. Oftentimes, hurt and struggle are involved while investing in someone else's life. Of course, Jesus is the ultimate example of sacrificial love for others.

Have you ever had the opportunity to be your brother's keeper? Did the situation arise, or did you seek out the person to minister to? It's easy to play it safe by not making yourself vulnerable, but then we miss an incredible chance to serve others like Christ served us.

Dr. Tiffany Robinson and Pastor Quentin Hood both served as Travis Fox's "keeper" as they cared for him in his need, as well as affirmed him in his victories. Travis Fox was Donnie Berry's "keeper" even in light of the dark secret kept from him about his parent's death and the theft of the necklace Travis Fox gave to his mother before she died. Mrs. Wanda Berry was her husband, Joe "Pops" Berry's "keeper" as she maintained a prayer vigil for his physical recovery.

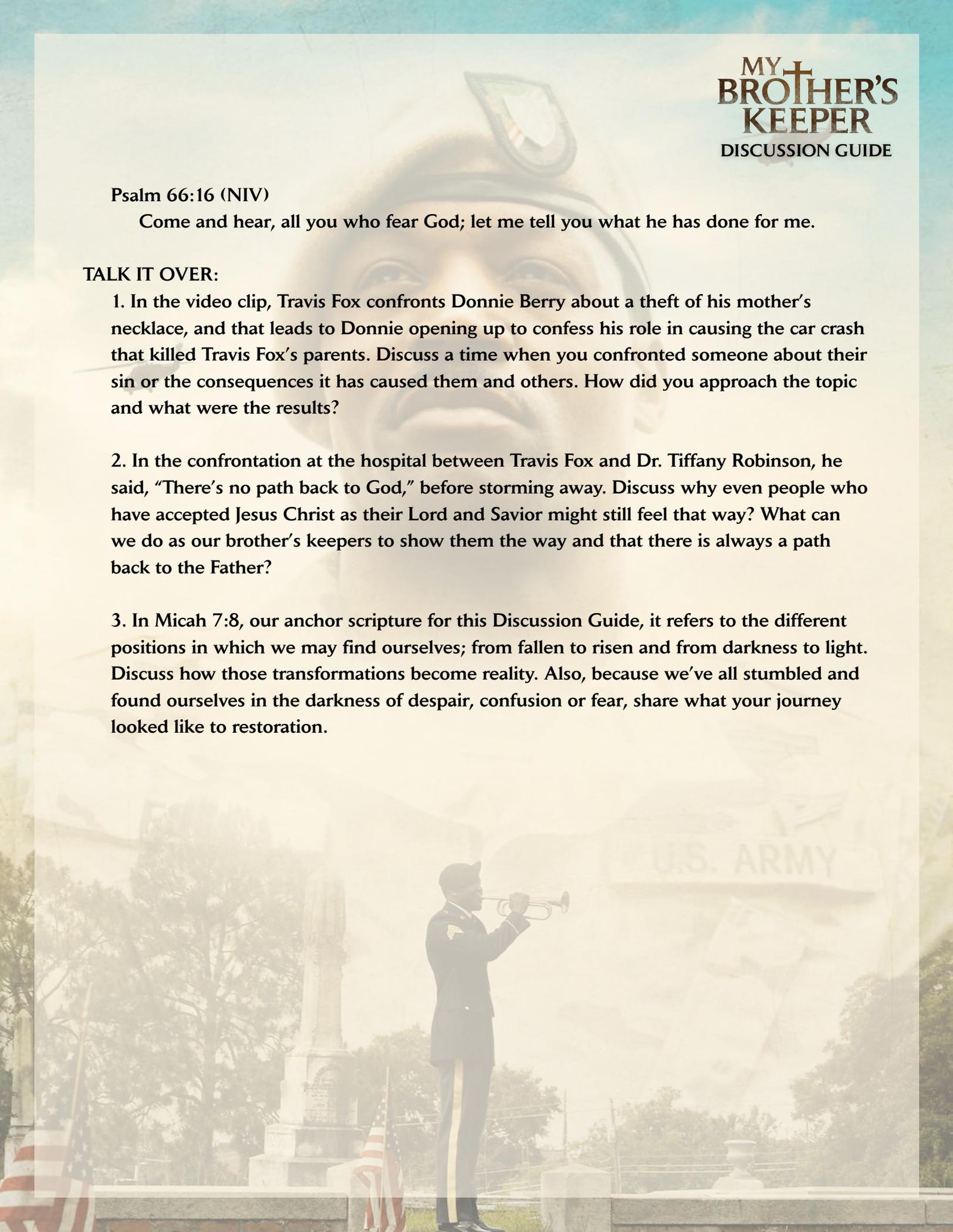
### CALL TO ACTION:

We're almost through with this Discussion Guide focused on the intense story of MY BROTHER'S KEEPER. Travis Fox's story relates to so many people who have and who are suffering with trauma. It might be PTSD, depression, anxiety, fear, abuse, neglect, or any of a number of source injuries, but no matter the source or diagnosis of their pain, people are suffering. Be intentional about seeking opportunities to serve someone in need. It might seem like you're not ready to take on another's burdens, but please know that with God, all things are possible.

### SCRIPTURE VERSES:

Luke 18:26-27 (NIV)

Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."



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**Psalm 66:16 (NIV)**

**Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.**

**TALK IT OVER:**

- 1. In the video clip, Travis Fox confronts Donnie Berry about a theft of his mother's necklace, and that leads to Donnie opening up to confess his role in causing the car crash that killed Travis Fox's parents. Discuss a time when you confronted someone about their sin or the consequences it has caused them and others. How did you approach the topic and what were the results?**
- 2. In the confrontation at the hospital between Travis Fox and Dr. Tiffany Robinson, he said, "There's no path back to God," before storming away. Discuss why even people who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior might still feel that way? What can we do as our brother's keepers to show them the way and that there is always a path back to the Father?**
- 3. In Micah 7:8, our anchor scripture for this Discussion Guide, it refers to the different positions in which we may find ourselves; from fallen to risen and from darkness to light. Discuss how those transformations become reality. Also, because we've all stumbled and found ourselves in the darkness of despair, confusion or fear, share what your journey looked like to restoration.**

## DISCUSSION #5

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This video clip is a beautiful example of the power in forgiving others. Before God could restore Travis Fox in the promise found in our anchor scripture of Micah 7:8, he first had to let go. God loves us and His grace and mercy are unearned gifts He extends to us only through the forgiveness of our sins.

Do you think you could have forgiven Donny Berry the way Travis Fox did after learning the truth about the way his parents died and then seeing his mom's special necklace being worn by Donny's mother, Mrs. Wanda Berry? Can you imagine the way God must feel when we fail him through our sins, yet His loving nature is to forgive and restore us into a right relationship?

Forgiveness and restoration open opportunities and pathways for kingdom service. Just as God has adopted us into His kingdom, He also allowed a restored Travis Fox to move into the legacy of another family. The night Preach Percy asked Travis Fox to pray with him and shared the family legacy of the Bible passed down through the men in his family would be his last night on earth. When Travis Fox retrieved that Bible from Preach's corpse, there was transformational potential in the continuation of a family legacy. The intimate scene when Travis Fox handed that very same Bible to Preach's son at his dad's funeral illustrated bringing forgiveness, restoration and adoption full-circle into a new Kingdom family.

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER is a powerfully moving lesson about God's eternal love for us. He wants to heal us of our trauma, provide paths for us to step out from beneath the shadows of dark places in our life, and restore us as His very own. God's plans for us are not to cause us harm but to bless us and give us hope and the promise of a future in Christ. Are you ready to move into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ? He's waiting.

### CALL TO ACTION:

This is your final session from the MY BROTHER'S KEEPER Discussion Guide and the lessons shared through the movie's story have created so many avenues for exploring our own personal pain, wounds that need healing, broken relationships, faltering faith, opportunities for forgiving others, being forgiven, and experiencing the full joy of God's promised anointing over your life.

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Focus on the people in your life that still hold power over you through offenses. Have you forgiven them? Forgiving others is not for them but is for you. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is the greatest gift you can give yourself, because you have the spiritual authority to set the captive free – you.

Who have you yet to forgive? Are you willing to forgive them? How will you take the first step?

### SCRIPTURE VERSES:

Matthew 6:26 (NIV)

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

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.

James 4:10 (NIV)

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

### TALK IT OVER:

1. Water baptism is a beautiful public profession of faith. Travis Fox had become reconciled in his walk with Christ, but he still wanted to be baptized. Have you been water baptized? Discuss the feelings of making that decision and your memory of the actual event. How would you encourage others to make this public profession of faith by participating in water baptism?
2. The scriptures from this discussion focus on God providing, prospering, and elevating His very own. Share how you have been blessed by God's provision. Also, discuss what it means to be a good receiver of God's blessings.
3. Travis Fox was, in terms of the natural man, an incredibly strong and skilled warfighter. No doubt, the demanding specialized training he'd received from the military crafted a man among men, even though he suffered from the attacks of his enemy – his self-induced separation from God. Have you felt the attacks from an enemy, either in-person or demonic? Discuss an experience of looking to God even in the darkest of times, when only He could rescue you.
4. Are you your brother's keeper? Explain.

## **ABOUT DR. SCOTT SILVERII**

Dr. Scott Silverii is thankful for the gift of his wife, Leah. They share seven kids, a French bulldog named Bacon and a micro-mini goldendoodle named Biscuit. A highly decorated, twenty-five-year law enforcement career promptly ended in retirement when God called Scott out of public service and into His service. "After years of locking men up, I'm living to set them free." The Chief admits that leading people to Christ is more exciting than the twelve years he spent undercover, sixteen years in SWAT, and five years as chief of police combined. Scott has earned a Master of Public Administration, a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology and post-doctoral seminary hours. Education and experience allow for a deeper understanding in ministering to the wounded, as he worked to break free from his own past pain and abuse. In 2016, Scott was led to plant Five Stones Church. Online out of the calling to combat the demonic influences reigning over social media. Having authored over 45 books, Scott's ministry service allows him to mentor aspiring faith-based authors through he and Leah's Christian publishing house, Five Stones Press.





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