

12 neighbors Discussion Guide

Week Eight: The mutual Pursuit of the Full Life

Pre-Film Question

- What is the opposite of poverty and marginalization?
- What does "a full life" look like to you?

Watch the "The Mutual Pursuit Of The Full Life" episode 7

Discussion Questions

1. What is the end goal of loving your neighbor?
2. Father G talked about the goal of **oneness** and **getting to mutuality** instead of the model of **service provider** ↔ **service recipient**. Father G talked about "**accompanying people**", Syma talked about "**walking beside them**". What do you think of these ideas?

Father Gregory Boyle says, "You want to get to mutuality fast...it's a oneness with each other."

Nikki, "It has to be an exchange."

Syma says, "I was not somebody who could change somebody else's story. That they change their own story and ...it's about walking beside them while they are on their journey and you are on yours."

Fr. Greg, "if you are the proud owner of a pulse, you can accompany people."

3. Father G mentions the idea of restoration (i.e. returning people to themselves), and not just to bring restoration to those who are poor or marginalized, but to yourself as well. What do you think of that concept?

Fr. Boyle, "You are exactly what God had in mind when God made you. And then you watch people inhabit that nobility. And you are inhabiting your own nobility because you are holding the mirror up and returning them to themselves, and you are being returned as well."

4. How do you handle loving your neighbor when it isn't returned? How do you persevere through such obstacles and challenges and also keep yourself healthy?

5. We called this episode, "**The Mutual Pursuit of the Full Life**". Discuss how or why "**loving your neighbor**" is a key to your own experience of the full life?

6. Go around the room and ask each person what their top takeaways are from the whole series.

Assessment

Now that you have completed the series, let's revisit our first assessment question:

Assess the role "**loving your neighbor**" currently plays in your life. What role would you like it to have moving forward? Are there changes you need to make in order to make this commandment more central to your lifestyle? Share with the group what action each of you wants to take. Invite others to keep you motivated and accountable.

Action

Revisit the list of needs in your community that you developed during Week Five. Discuss as a group what actions each of you want to take from here on in. Do you want to continue to work together as a team to create, partner or adopt a context for community?