

# 12 neighbors Discussion Guide

## Week Eight: The mutual Pursuit of the Full Life

### Pre-Film Question

Read John 10:10 and 2 Corinthians 13:11

*"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."  
John 10:10 (NIV)*

*"Strive for full restoration,  
encourage one another,  
be of one mind,  
live in peace.  
And the God of love and peace will be with you."  
2 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)*

1. What does it mean to strive for full restoration?
2. What does **the full life** look like to you?

*Another word that is frequently used throughout scripture to depict the full life is "shalom." While often translated as "peace," shalom is much fuller than that, and biblically refers to a sense of wholeness or completeness. In the Old Testament, when the Lord brings shalom, health is restored (Isaiah 57:19), reconciliation (Genesis 26:29), good relationships between people and nations, (1 Chronicles 12:17-18), between humans and the land, God, and with ourselves.*

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? Re-read *Isaiah 58:10*
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?