no address

NO ADDRESS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Designed to be used after viewing NO ADDRESS, this study guide offers resources for biblically based discussion. It is an excellent tool for both group and personal study.

OVERVIEW

After years in foster care, Lauren graduates from high school, only to find her belongings in trash bags outside. With nowhere to go, she meets Jimmy, a kind-hearted runaway who introduces her to an unconventional family forged on the streets. Harris, a gifted painter and battle-scarred veteran; Dora, a once-glimmering actress now battling her mind; and Violet, also a veteran fighting her own wars with addiction. This family is constantly warding off a harassing gang, an unforgiving community, and local authorities. Robert, a once-successful businessman in the throes of financial ruin due to his gambling addiction, is desperate to take back the land the street family lives on for a prosperous development project.

Inspired by true events, NO ADDRESS offers hope, humanity, and resilience as these characters navigate the stormy challenges of life with no physical address. This film is a testament to the enduring human spirit and the transformative power of community. No Address vividly portrays that homelessness could happen to anyone…

THEME ONE: Compassion

From the beginning of the film, we see Robert's lack of compassion toward the homeless community. He judges those living in the encampment and actively works to have them removed so he can complete a business deal. Eventually, Robert finds himself in need and without anyone to show him compassion. When he experiences homelessness himself, his perspective begins to change. Near the end of the film, Lauren offers Robert a sandwich while he is living on the street. The script has flipped, and, unlike Robert, Lauren chooses to show compassion.

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

Proverbs 21:13 (NIV): “Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.”

Matthew 25:41-45 (NIV): “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’”

Proverbs 29:7 (NIV): “The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.”

Isaiah 58:7 (NIV): “Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

SCENES TO REVIEW

“Get a Real Job” — 18:07-18:40

“Eviction Notice” — 43:41-44:54

“Compassion, Love, and Faith Conquer All” — 1:35:42-1:36:43

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Lauren says that “anyone can be just a few short steps away from being homeless.” Do you believe that? Why or why not?
- Have you ever experienced someone showing you compassion when you needed it? How did that affect you?
- In Matthew 25, Jesus says that how we treat those in need is ultimately how we treat Him. How does this Scripture change or challenge the way you view people experiencing homelessness?
- What is one practical way you can show compassion to someone who is struggling or in need?

THEME TWO: Community

The people living at the encampment find connection and belonging with one another, even amid difficult circumstances. Jimmy demonstrates a willingness to share and care for others despite having very little himself. Gabrielle, who is not experiencing homelessness herself, chooses to help those who are. This challenges us to consider the larger community's role.

Rather than viewing homelessness as someone else's problem, what would it look like for families, churches, neighborhoods, and communities to recognize that we have a responsibility to care for one another? Scripture calls believers not only to care about those who are struggling, but to welcome them, share with them, and carry their burdens.

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

Galatians 6:2 (NIV): “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Romans 12:13 (NIV): “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

Hebrews 13:2 (NIV): “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

SCENES TO REVIEW

“Passing Out Bagels” — 30:41-31:27

“They Need Help” — 32:42-33:37

“Soup Kitchen” — 48:45-49:33

“God Takes Care of Those Who Take Care of Others” — 1:17:42-1:18:23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What’s the difference between simply living near other people and being part of a community? What makes a community strong?
- What do you think it means to “carry each other’s burdens,” as described in Galatians 6:2? How do you see this demonstrated in the film?
- How can the church create a community where people who are in need feel welcomed and supported?
- In the scene “Passing Out Bagels,” Jimmy gives to others even though he has very little himself. What does his example teach us about generosity?
- What’s one thing you can do this month to show the love of Jesus to the people experiencing homelessness in your community?