

Everywhere You Look
Discussions Questions for Group Leaders
by Tim Soerens

Chapter 1: The Movement or the Meltdown

1. COVID 19 has accelerated this idea of a movement or meltdown dramatically. From your life, which feels stronger right now? If it feels more like a meltdown, are there any other places you can look?
2. Can you think of 2 other people in your city who are already living out their faith in their neighborhood? By connecting them, you are cultivating a movement.
3. What are your “default” phrases when you talk about the church? If we want a new reality, we need to use new language. Just to get started, what is a short sentence that more truly describes what you long for the church to become?

Chapter 2: The Big Why

1. Based on how you grew up, how would you describe what the church existed for?
2. What is one snapshot of “God’s Dream” in your neighborhood? Who is involved? What could happen? What is the conflict?
3. What is something that you personally are longing to see in your neighborhood? How can this desire become a prayer and a dare?

Chapter 3: The Magic of Paying Attention:

1. How were you taught to “pay attention to God” and how has that changed over the years?
2. Can you think of a story in a ministry setting when someone refused to keep listening to the Spirit, took matters into their own hands, and as a result made things far worse despite their intentions?
3. What is something that is bothering you right now in your neighborhood? How might you dig even deeper with curiosity before you try to be helpful?

Chapter 4: The Mega Church Next Door

1. Google how many people live in your parish, give yourself a percentage of how many might consider themselves Christians and care about the neighborhood. How big is your hidden mega-church?
2. Are there any places outside of Sunday gatherings where your neighbors could encounter a small team of Christians?
3. Can you think of one example of seeing and proclaiming good news that is from the nuanced particularity of your everyday life? Each person and place is unique. What is a

small contribution that only you, your neighbors, or your neighborhood could make to the broader body of Christ.

Chapter 5: The Parish is the Unit of Change

1. It can be tricky to say exactly what your parish is, but when you think about a place that is large enough to live a lot of life and small enough to be a known character, tell us your first attempt at defining your parish.
2. Were you raised to pursue change by focusing more on the individual or more on the system? How does a parish imagination stretch how you think about how communities can change?
3. Of the three practices (common mission, formation, relationship) which of the three comes most easily to you? Which is most challenging?

Chapter 6: The Same Team

1. How many visible congregations exist in your parish?
2. Which congregation is the most challenging for you to appreciate? Can you name one gift they bring to the neighborhood?
3. Institutions don't collaborate, the people within them do. Can you think of two individuals from different congregations and scheme an excuse to get them together?

Chapter 7: Learning from Local Heroes

1. In the early days of your Christian formation were you more taught that people are created as "very good" (Genesis 1) or inherently bad (Genesis 3). How has this affected how you see your neighbors?
2. What are three gifts you appreciate in your neighborhood and how might you connect them together?
3. How can you celebrate or even commemorate neighbors who you believe are exceptional?

Chapter 8: Already Here

1. With most changes, would you say you are most commonly an early adopter, early majority, or a laggard?
2. What is a short story of neighborhood transformation that might seem nearly impossible in a year or two, but is entirely possible in 10 years of faithful presence?
3. What is one other neighborhood in your city you would love to visit and explore?