



Thank you for hosting a viewing and discussion with your group or congregation! We hope these questions serve you as you reflect over the stories in the film. Sojourners crafted this guide with the intent to help others become better sanctuary receivers and givers.

Before you begin the session, go around the room and introduce yourselves. To set the tone for the time, consider asking the question: "What comes to mind when you hear the word sanctuary?"

Below are some questions to lead a discussion at the end of the film.

1. The stories presented confront us with the real pain communities experience through the process of extending sanctuary. What are your first impressions? Where were any parts that particularly touched you?
2. As you become familiar with these stories, what biblical narratives come to mind of people seeking, receiving, and/or giving sanctuary or hospitality? How can these narratives inform your practices today? (For one example, you can look at Genesis 18.)
3. In the film, we learn sanctuary is not only about physically sheltering people. Did anything change about your perception of sanctuary after watching the film?
4. Immigrants risk a lot when they abandon their communities to go into sanctuary. As she showcases her former living quarters, Minerva points out the place where she came out to see the sun, and, as she mentions, this place was a "golden prison." Reflect on that concept. In what ways was her temporary situation golden? In what ways was it a prison? What cost do people like Minerva and Eliseo have to pay to go into sanctuary?
5. Sanctuary as envisioned in the movement is a temporary stay while a more permanent solution is found for individuals in risk of deportation. This state of in-betweenness is referred to as liminality. Immigrant people in general often live their lives in between two or more worlds: their home culture and the dominant culture of the land in which they live. Much of our life of faith is lived in the in-between also: the Saturday in-between Good Friday and Easter, the space between valleys and mountaintops. How have you experienced liminality? What lessons have you learned in places of liminality?



6. Rev. Doug Long says that sanctuary is not about civil disobedience, but rather it is something that wells up from the spirituality of their community. He also mentions another pastor who has never experienced the presence of God as strongly as when they hosted someone in sanctuary. How have you seen or experienced the presence of God through immigrant people around you?
7. Sanctuary is also a posture toward people. For many immigrant people to offer sanctuary to others means to make space and give grace to people who receive them. They have learned to be welcomed: to put aside their expectations and comfort and adjust to what is being offered. How have you displaced yourself from power or comfort to receive the hospitality or sanctuary of another? How could you become better at this?
8. After watching this film and talking through your experiences, how are you being led to respond? How can you experience sanctuary and/or give sanctuary in your community?

Should you feel moved to explore more about getting involved in the sanctuary movement you can find resources and contact information to a local network over at www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org