

The Amish Project

Talk Amongst Yourselves...

1. Have you ever experienced a tragedy? Moments of tragedy and joy are often defining moments in our lives as individuals and as a communities. What is it about those events that is so defining?
2. What impact does the media play in current coverage of tragedies? Do you think we are more or less empathetic as a people since the rise of 24 hour, instant access to coverage about every detail about tragedies in our world?
3. Do you believe evil is born or developed thru life experiences?
4. Historic people who have committed heinous crimes, does knowing their backstory change your perspective on them?
5. Where does the line between being a product of your upbringing and culpability lie? If someone was abused and raised in such a way that they eventually do bad acts, are they ultimately responsible for those acts?
6. Despite living in a culture that seems to teach independence and individualism, situations like one depicted in the play reveal that a deep community experience exists. Should shame and guilt be shared? If you did not do the crime, is it fair that you pay the price too? As a family? As a nation? As a people group?
7. Is it easier to extend or receive forgiveness?
8. On the tense spectrum of Justice and mercy, are you motivated more by need for justice or a need to extend mercy?
9. In the play, the gunman's widow indicates how broken and dirty she feels and that the forgiveness the Amish community extends to her only makes her feel more disgusting. Is there a right time to extend forgiveness? Can you be unkind by extending forgiveness before it is requested? Did the gunman's family need to be forgiven?
10. What impact did one person playing all the roles have on you as you were watching the play?
11. In the situation depicted in this play, the gunman took his own life. How does the process of forgiveness play out if the person responsible is no longer alive to forgive?
12. If you believe there is a God, what role does He play in situations like the one in the play?
13. Do you ever get angry at God when you hear or experience tragedy? Is it okay to be angry at God?
14. Do you think it is easier to forgive the big things like the situation depicted in this play or the little every-day things like being cut off in traffic?