



## ***Video Discussion Guide - Anna***

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Show the video, *Anna*, found at [www.SeeAllThePeople.org](http://www.SeeAllThePeople.org).

### **Starters** (15 minutes)

The film gives some insights into what it feels like to be a newcomer in a community and in a congregation.

List some things you observed while viewing the film that especially struck you as important.

What do we know about this family? Do families similar to this live in the community around you? If so, where?

### **Discuss with one or two people, and then share with the whole group:**

- What role does the African-American girl play in the film and how does it relate to discipleship? What action does she take? What does she NOT do?
- What did this church do to help engage this new family? What didn't they do?
- What does the phrase, "Discipleship begins with relationship," say to you?

# The Quick Fix (10 minutes)

In *Engaging your Community*, Junius B. Dotson, the General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, says:

“When significant people in your life pull away from you, do you send a greeting card or do you visit in person? Do you create a PowerPoint presentation with charts and graphs that make the case for their not pulling away, or do you hug them and find ways to stay connected? The church has been sending postcards and producing PowerPoint presentations when we need to immerse ourselves in the lives of the people who are right outside our doors. We have to seek meaningful relationships in authentic, organic, and consistent ways.”

– *Engaging your Community*, p. 14

## Discuss with three or four people, and then share with the whole group:

- What is the difference between offering a program to those in your community versus developing relationships?
- What obstacles keep people in your church from engaging with those in your community?
- What issues in the lives of people in your community demand meaningful relationships and conversations? (homelessness, violence, schools, etc.)

# Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

**Ask a member to read aloud the following passage from Matthew 25:34-40.**

**Ask another person to read the background.**

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

<sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’<sup>1</sup>

## Background:

All churches are called to feed the poor, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and those in prison). However, sometimes we can do those things while never truly engaging with those we serve. Churches can often meet needs, but do we love people enough to let them change us—to become family?

## Questions for Discussion:

If your group has more than seven members, divide into groups of four to discuss the Scripture passage.

- How does our church engage people beyond meeting needs?
- How does seeing someone else as Jesus change the nature of our relationship?
- How does engaging with others make us open to God’s grace?

## Making It Personal:

*“Engagement involves initiating and building relationships. Engagement seeks to ensure that outreach and evangelism efforts become a vital part of an intentional system of discipleship. Again, we turn to our “why”: Discipleship begins with relationship. The church does not undertake outreach to provide ministry for people but rather to be in ministry and relationship with people. Whether your church’s outreach is missional or evangelistic in nature, its effectiveness depends upon its being intentionally designed with engagement and relationship-building in mind. Effective missional engagement that forms part of an intentional system of discipleship has the following characteristics: it is authentic, organic, and consistent in its approach to relationships.”*

– *Engaging the Community*, p. 23

- What is the difference between offering ministry for people versus creating ministry with people?
- How is God speaking to you after viewing the film?
- What decisions have you made as a result of this study?

## Additional Resources:

- *Engaging Your Community: A Guide to Seeing All the People* by Junius B. Dotson  
Free download at [www.SeeAllThePeople.org](http://www.SeeAllThePeople.org)
- TeamWorks, a series of seminars for developing strong teams by Craig Kennet Miller  
[www.TeamWorksUMC.org](http://www.TeamWorksUMC.org)
- *Disciples Making Disciples: A Guide for Covenant Discipleship Groups and Class Leaders*  
by Steven W. Manskar  
<http://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR774/disciples-making-disciples.aspx>
- *Everyday Disciples: Covenant Discipleship with Youth* by Chris Wilterdink  
<http://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR793/everyday-disciples.aspx>
- *Growing Everyday Disciples: Covenant Discipleship with Children*  
by Melanie C. Gordon, Susan Groseclose, Gayle Quay  
<http://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR695/growing-everyday-disciples.aspx>

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## References

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