

Tattoos on the Heart

Directions: Read Tattoos on the Heart and annotate the text as you read.

Respond to the following questions in complete sentences. Choose 15 out of 19 questions to answer. Make certain you are answer ALL parts of each question. The final question is an extra credit opportunity.

Chapter 1 - God, I Guess

1. Fr. Boyle says Jesus chose to “marinate in the God who is always greater than our tiny conception, the God who ‘loves without measure and without regret.’” What does this mean, according to Fr. Boyle? Do you believe that you do this? Explain. (p.22)
2. Fr. Boyle asked Willy two questions. What are the questions he asked? What were Willy’s answers? What is your answer to these questions at this point in your life? Explain. (p.22-24)

Chapter 2: Dis-Grace

3. Explain the difference between the “one false move” God and the “no matter whatness” of God. (p.52)
4. Why does Fr. Boyle think that gang members like Sniper strut around? (p.53-54)

Chapter 3: Compassion

5. Distinguish sympathy, empathy and compassion, Folsom-style. (p. 61-62)
6. When the Latino who grew up in the projects said, “This used to be a church,” what was Fr. Boyle’s reply? Explain what he means by this. (p.73)
7. How did Anthony & Dennis show that, “if we love what God loves, then, in compassion, margins get erased?” (p.75-77)

Chapter 4: Water, Oil, Flame

8. What perspective did Baptism give George that prevented him from seeking revenge? (p.84-87)
9. Describe the conditional love of gangs and the remedy for it. (p.94)

Chapter 5: Slow Work

10. Why does God wait, do you think? Why doesn't God just intervene? (p.113)
11. How does Fr. Boyle reinterpret "take care of everything?" (p.115-117)

Chapter 6: Jurisdiction

12. What is Fr. Boyle's logic in employing gang enemies in the same store? (p.142)
13. Describe a time when you have wandered into God's own jurisdiction.

Chapter 7: Gladness

14. Describe an example of a tiny God that shows you know how to recognize one, as Socorro did. (p.151-152)
15. When you walk into a room, who are you most like: Clinton, Gore, Bush or Jesus? Explain.

Chapter 8: Success

16. Summarize Fr. Boyle's take on success. (p.168)
17. How do you work with the poor, according to Sister Elaine? (p.172) Explain what she means by this.
18. Why did Jesus choose the cross? Explain. (p.173)
19. Do you agree with Fr. Boyle that there is something better than success? Explain your answer using at least two examples from the chapter.

Extra Credit

Respond to the prompt below in 6-8 complete sentences.

After reading this book, was your reaction to Chico's death closer to Fr. Boyle's or the mortician's? Explain how the book influenced your decision.