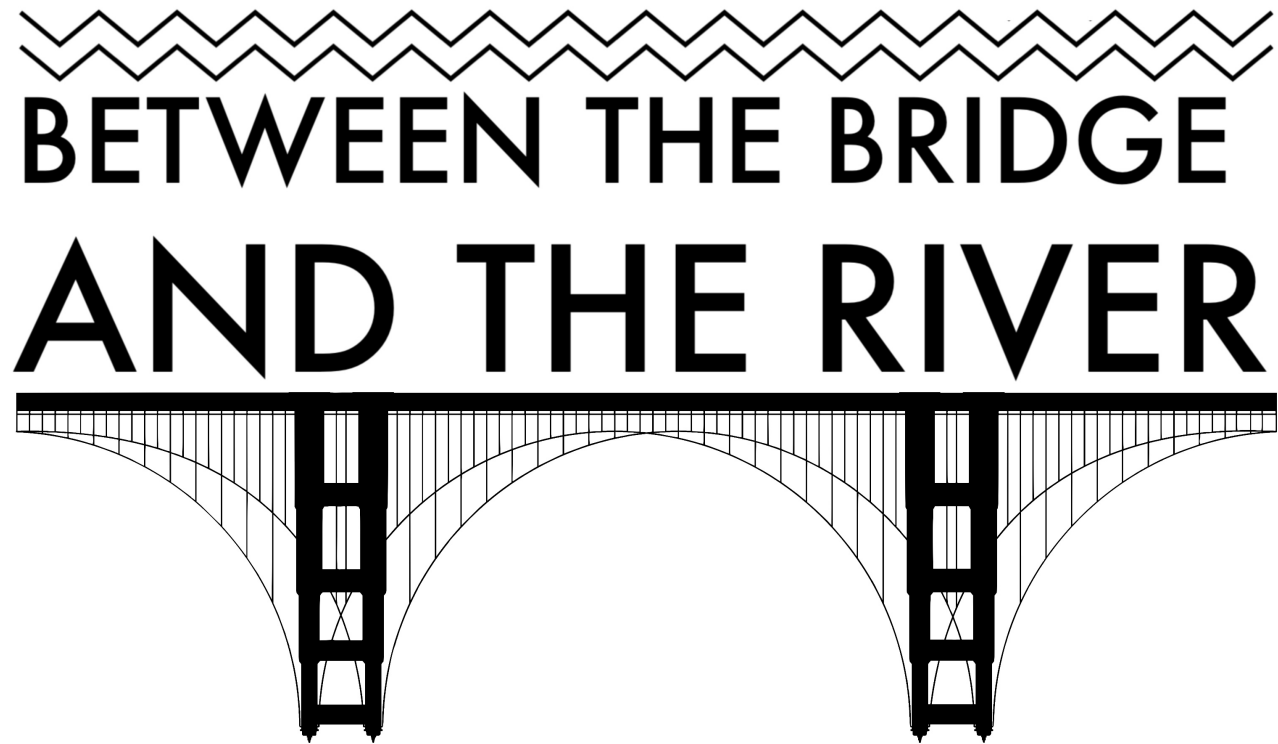

Curriculum & Discussion Guide



INTRODUCTION TO MOVIE:

When it comes to suicide, there are many questions suicide survivors are left with.... what drove my loved one to this? Why didn't they call me? What could I have done to prevent this? Is my loved one in Heaven?

There is a story (also attributed to St. John Vianney) in which a woman goes to St. Padre Pio and asks him, "Is my husband in Heaven? He jumped off a bridge to kill himself." St. Padre Pio closed his eyes and prayed. Then, after a few moments, he opened his eyes, looked at her and said, "Between the bridge and the river, he cried out for mercy and was saved."

This video is about the final moment of someone's life. In agony, they lose their life to suicide and yet God's mercy and opportunity for mercy extends into and beyond that final moment of life. We pray that if you have lost someone to suicide, you will find healing in the hope that we always, always have in God's love and mercy for each of us. If God would not spare even His own Son on the cross, there is literally nothing He would not do for you. We also pray that if you have been struggling with suicidal thoughts or darkness, you would cry out for mercy, for help, and for healing that God longs to bring you. He says: "I am the way, the truth, and the LIFE."

Play Movie

Discussion/Journaling

1. What character do you identify with in this film?
2. What scenes, images, or symbols depict the darkness that people go through?
3. What scenes, images, or symbols depict the light?
4. What does the Church teach about suicide?
5. What can someone do to “Cry out for mercy/ask for help” before it is too late?
6. What can you do to help someone cry out for mercy/ask for help?
7. What things in our lives bring us down physically?
8. What things in our lives bring us down mentally?
9. What things in our lives bring us down spiritually?
10. Faith plays a crucial role in this film. What role does faith play in your life?



Catechism on Suicide: Small Group Discussion

2258 "*Human life is sacred* because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."

Question: Why is it wrong to harm your own body?

2280 Everyone is responsible for his life before God who has given it to him. It is God who remains the sovereign Master of life. We are obliged to accept life gratefully and preserve it for his honor and the salvation of our souls. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of.

Question: Who do we belong to and how do we know God loves us?

2281 Suicide contradicts the natural inclination of the human being to preserve and perpetuate his life. It is gravely contrary to the just love of self. It likewise offends love of neighbor because it unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity with family, nation, and other human societies to which we continue to have obligations. Suicide is contrary to love for the living God.

Question: Why is suicide against our natural instincts?

2282 If suicide is committed with the intention of setting an example, especially to the young, it also takes on the gravity of scandal. Voluntary co-operation in suicide is contrary to the moral law. Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide.

Question: How does suicide affect the community?

2283 We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives.

Question: Why do we have hope for someone who has lost their life to suicide?

Prayer

God sees you. He loves you. There is nothing He would not do to show you how much He loves you. God shows us that the suffering, the agony, the Crucifixion... that is not the end of the story. There is Resurrection and new life! Your story is not over either.

Let us pray and unite our sufferings to Jesus:

Thorns which pierced His head...

for the sadness, the depression, the confusion, the brain illness

Sword which pierced His heart...

for the anxiety, the grief, the longing, the hurt we have experienced, the isolation, the physical illness

Nails in His hands...

for the failures, the mistakes, the emptiness, the pain we have caused others

Nails in His feet...

for the tiredness, the uncertainty of what we are supposed to do next, the times we haven't followed Him

Take a moment and ask for Jesus' healing. What do you need from Him?

Jesus give us the strength and peace we need to endure our sufferings, knowing that this is not the end. You redeem, you heal, you forgive, and you love me, Lord.

Amen.
