

Social Justice Book Club

Heaven Help Us by John Kasich

- 1) Did you like the book and would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?
  
- 2) In Chapter 1 about Reverend Eric Manning and the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, following the deaths of church members, what was the statement leading to the rebuilding process (pg 21)? How do you see this as being the basis for forgiveness in the face of tragedy?
  
- 3) In Chapter 7, Hal Donaldson as a child loses his parents in an auto accident and is taken in by neighbors. Later in life he meets St. Mother Teresa who asks him what question? How do these events lead him to make the statement “we’ve been able to activate thousands of congregations”?
  
- 4) In Chapter 8, Dr. Hajar’s father asks him why he went into medicine as he responds with “I wanted to help people”. How did the thread in this conversation mirror that of Hal Donaldson’s conversation with St. Mother Teresa? How does the Halim Clinic bridge the stereotypical impression of immigrants in this country? Have you ever experienced needing help in a foreign country and how does this story parallel your experiences?
  
- 5) In Chapter 11, Fr. Greg Boyle refers to a quote from St. Mother Teresa “We’re not called to be successful. We’re called to be faithful”. Reflecting on the work of Father Boyle, describe an experience where you may not have thought would be successful initially but turned out to be later? How did this impact your relationship with God?
  
- 6) Did the book change your opinion about anything or teach you anything new regarding social justice?
  
- 7) After reading the book, what are your thoughts about the strengths and weaknesses of faith communities as they relate to social justice?