

Film Discussion Guide



We asked our grandmother why our great, great grandfather Gary Green and other leaders went to the risk of building a school on the main road and proclaiming to the public that they were educating black children, when in 1868, 3 years after slavery, there must have been a safer more inconspicuous way. She said, “The black children of Quince Orchard needed a school, your great-great-grandfather and those other folks looked around their community saw that need and acted. They were doers. And doers do.”

We have put together this resource to prompt reflection and community discussion about the complex issues raised in the film and the broader complex issues address our communities and our nation.

We would love to hear your community story. Please share it with us and we will do our best to lift up your story. Share your stories/projects/lessons learned here:

Website: FindingFellowship.film
Instagram: [FindingFellowship](https://www.instagram.com/FindingFellowship)
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Reflective Thinking

The Reflective Thinking Guide could be useful to use while viewing Finding Fellowship. It includes reflection questions and discussion questions; please adapt for your purposes.

1. As Jason and his family look back over their heritage and family tree, they discover the roots of slavery in their lineage. Does your family history touch slavery in some way? If so, what does that history mean to you or your family? What have you learned from it? What kind of feeling does this history bring up for you? Does it make you think about how you engage with others?
2. Snyder's Store was at the heart of Quince Orchard. Places and spaces can be so important to building community. What made this store significant? Do you have a landmark that brings community together like Snyder's Store? What is it and how does it serve your community?
3. Are there institutions in your life that are segregated by any characteristic? Dr. Horsford discussed the difference between Desegregation and Integration. What is the difference? Why is this distinction important?
4. Is segregation a bad thing? Why or Why not?
5. What damage did the segregated school system do to the Black students? What is meant by psychological damage? Did the segregated school system also damage the white students, and in what way? How did segregation affect the existence of the "community"?
6. What events, community ties, relationships, and experiences led to the different racial journeys experienced during Integration by Gerard, Jr. and Melvin? How might their grade school experiences have continued to impact them over time?
7. While there was trepidation about the churches merging, it was a real turning point for the community. Where their benefits of the merger? What entities operate separately in your community that would benefit from uniting?
8. While 17 years old, Rev. Green advocated for a church merger despite being at odds with his father. Are there issues that you would pursue even if the ones you love didn't? What would you expect them to do?
9. A character said, "it just felt safer when you knew your neighbors." Do you feel like you know your neighbors? Are there particular events or community meeting places that have allowed you to know your neighbors? What keeps communities from knowing their neighbors?
10. The churches merging was successful in the long run, but people left each church, and there were some very hard and intentional decisions about how to practically come together. What challenges might your community face when trying to reconcile?
11. Bill Phillips joined the newly formed Gospel Choir at Fairhaven. He was the first white member of the church to join and said it was "an opportunity that he couldn't miss." What opportunities to join are there in your community? Where can you go to learn about, and be a part of a different culture than your own?

12. With the modernization and re-naming of Quince Orchard to North Potomac came a feeling among the community members that their home and their history was being erased. What are the possible dangers of loss through modernization and what can be done to preserve history and heritage? What are the opportunities that might spur as a new place develops?
13. When it was time to pave Fellowship Lane, Gerard Green, Sr. asked Rev. Glenn Young to testify before the County Council on their behalf. That has been lifted up as an example of allyship. What is allyship and what do you think it can mean for advancing important missions?
14. Above we describe the church merger as a success, but in reality, it's a work in progress. The movie concludes with the proclamation – the cost of liberty is constant vigilance, the cost of community is the same. What does that mean to you?

Discussion Questions

General

Merriam Webster defines community as “a group of people who live in the same neighborhood; a group of people who have the same interests, religion, race, etc.,” but how do you define it. What is community and what is important about it?

Community Evolution

We know that change is inevitable but there is a lot of discussion now about changes that are happening in communities across the country. As economic disparity grows concerns of gentrification and displacement have heightened.

- How have you seen your community evolve? What physical changes have you witnessed and what are your initial reactions to the change? How about after many years? Have you become accustomed to the change? Do you appreciate the new at the expense of the old?
- What are some of the catalysts, or reasons for development in our own communities? Is there such thing as good or bad development? If yes, how would you define it?

Historical Value & Current Events

- How do you value history? And does that influence your idea of community?
- How does Finding Fellowship help provide context for current events?
- Do you see segregation existing in our communities today? How so? What are other types of segregation aside from racial that affect the dynamic of a community?

