henri nouwen SOCIETY

“Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety”

Book Club discussion questions

INTRODUCTION

1. Nouwen talks about hearing the *voice of love* and how it brings focus and clarity. When in your life have you felt guided in a clear direction? What was that experience like, and how did it shape your spirituality?

CHAPTER 1: THE INVITATION TO “COME AND SEE”

2. Nouwen describes God as *“Infinite Mother, Loving Host, Caring Father, the Good Provider.”* Which of these images resonates with you the most? How have you experienced growth in how you see or relate to God?

3. Jesus says, *“I have made my home in you so you can make your home in me.”* What does it mean to *make your home* in Jesus? How do you experience or struggle with this in your daily life?

4. Nouwen speaks about people, like John the Baptist, who point others to Jesus. Who in your life has helped you grow spiritually? How did they impact you?

5. If you could ask Jesus anything, without fear or hesitation, what would you ask? Why does that question feel important to you?

6. Nouwen urges us to *simply be there*—to listen, ask, and dwell in Jesus. Why do you think this is so difficult in today's world? How do you personally try to create space for God?

CHAPTER 2: THE CALL: "COME FOLLOW ME"

7. How do you recognize and process your own brokenness? What spiritual practices, people, or communities help you navigate this part of your spiritual journey?

8. Nouwen contrasts *the logic of the world* (scarcity, competition) with *the logic of the kingdom* (abundance, generosity). What does it look like to embrace a mindset of abundance? What makes this challenging?

9. Nouwen warns that when we feel scarcity, we tend to hoard—whether it's material things, status, affection, or even knowledge. Where do you see this tendency in yourself or in our culture? How can we shift toward trust and generosity?

10. *"What we hold on to always diminishes. What we give away always multiplies."* In what ways have you experienced this truth firsthand? How has generosity or letting go led to unexpected blessings in your life?

11. Nouwen says, *"You already know the little steps, even if you don't know the big ones."* What small steps do you feel called to take in your spiritual journey today?