

## STUDY QUESTIONS

### RECOVERY FRIENDLY CHURCHES

#### BEFORE WATCHING THE INTERVIEW

In John 4:35 Jesus' disciples were puzzling over his decision to befriend the Samaritan woman he met at Jacob's well; he told them, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." How would a decision to find ways to welcome people dealing with addiction be similar?

Think of having common ground with addicts: what are some behaviors I keep telling myself I'll change, and then don't?

#### WHILE WATCHING THE INTERVIEW

What kinds of help are people who struggle with addiction looking for in a church?

What might people dealing with addictions encounter in church that would be unhelpful or discouraging?

What do people who deal with addictions mean when they talk about the "disease" aspect of addiction?

What are some things that surprise and disturb me in the discussion about how addiction affects family members?

What are some reasons why the message of God's grace is so important for people who are struggling with addiction?

#### POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What are some things my congregation is already doing that would be helpful to people dealing with addictions?

What could we do to be more understanding and welcoming?

Is a discouraged, ashamed, and scared addict who comes to my church likely to get a clear impression of how loved and valuable and forgiven he is? Are there things we do and say that could get in the way?

How could the "disease" concept help in understanding the addict's struggles?

Is my congregation a place where people can feel safe to open up about their woundedness? Do I feel safe to open up? Are there ways we could improve?

How could all of us in church benefit from understanding the dynamics of addiction and recovery?