

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

### **Episode One: 'If I Die Tomorrow, What Legacy Do I Have?'**

1. How do you understand why both Anthony and Theron entered the gang lifestyle? What did they gain from doing this?
2. Each of them comes to reconsider the value of their prior loyalty to their gangs. What does this reconsideration involve, and what seems to have motivated it?
3. How do each of these men describe how they have changed?
4. What key motivations guide these men's actions in the present? What kind of person do they wish to be today, and why?

### **Episode Two: 'That's When the Remorse Set In'**

1. How did Terrence initially explain to himself why he committed murder? How and why did his understanding change?
2. How and why does the memory of his victim shape his current behavior?
3. What surprised Moustafa at his sentencing hearing? Why was that moment so critical in structuring his life since that day?
4. Each of these men expresses concern about how they victimized their own families. How does this concern manifest itself, and how does that help explain the sense of responsibility they feel?

### **Episode Three: 'And It Is Hard'**

1. How do Cameron and Steve explain the prevalence of violence in prison? How did this violent reality shape how they adapted to prison life when they first arrived?
2. What factors led each of them to step away from the violence in which they once regularly engaged?
3. How is stepping away from violence a part of wider personal changes each of these men is trying to make?
4. How might each of these men now be acting in a way that could potentially reduce the amount of violence in the prison in which they are housed?

## **Episode Four: 'Finding A Way To Express Those Emotions'**

1. When the men use the term “toxic masculinity” in this episode, to what do they seem to be referring?
2. Why might this type of masculinity be particularly strong in a men’s prison?
3. How and why do these men try to resist the masculine culture of prison?
4. How does resisting common masculine norms relate to the wider personal changes they are trying to make? How is it connected to their desire to make amends for their past mistakes?

## **Episode Five: 'Put A Little More Air In His Balloon'**

1. What does the term “generativity” mean, and why is it emphasized in this episode?
2. What key forms does generativity take for these men?
3. How does being generative appear to change how the men see themselves and their role in the world?
4. How do prisons now work to make generativity difficult to accomplish? Can you imagine ways in which prisons might make it easier to perform generativity?

## **Episode Six: 'Something Positive The Universe Gains'**

1. When the men describe their desire to live a life of repentance, what does that seem to mean to them? What represents repentant action to them?
2. Why might trying to be repentant be important to them?
3. Moustafa uses the metaphor of a spider web to help him understand the ramifications of his actions, both past and present. Anthony also sees value in this metaphor. Why do they use this metaphor, and how does it seem to shape their understandings and actions?
4. The men wonder aloud about how their repentance might be beneficial to their victims. Why do they suggest this? Do you agree with their line of reasoning? Why or why not?

## **Episode Seven: 'It Does Let Us Off The Hook'**

1. What is retribution and why does it seem to be important, particularly in terms of the growth of rates of incarceration in the United States?
2. Cameron argues that retribution leads to warehousing. What does he mean by warehousing and why does he connect it to retribution?
3. The men argue that prisons that primarily serve as warehouses do not work to encourage accountability. Why do they make this argument, and why do they think this is an important point to understand about contemporary incarceration?
4. The men suggest that the adversarial nature of the criminal process makes it hard for individuals to take accountability for their actions. Why do they make this argument? Do you find this argument persuasive? Why or why not?

## **Episode Eight: 'We're Genuinely Trying To Repair The Harm'**

1. The men clearly favor more restorative approaches to criminal wrongdoing. What does a more restorative approach appear to mean to them?
2. Restorative justice at the Oregon State Penitentiary refers to a particular type of community in that facility. How does that community appear to be unique, and how does it seem to foster personal change amongst its members?
3. Based upon this episode and the previous ones, how do you think the men understand the process of making amends?
4. Does allowing these and other prisoners to make amends require any obligations on the part of the outside society? If so, what are these obligations and how they can best be fulfilled?