

Discussion Guide: *Flight of Shadows* by Sigmund Brouwer

1. Because fear-mongering headlines often highlight/associate illegal immigrants with increased crime and drug trade problems in the United States, it's too easy to forget about the vast majority of invisible immigrants who are willing to work menial jobs at poverty incomes for a better life for their family. If you honestly imagine yourself in the position of a mother or father so desperate to help your own children that you would risk all your lives to sneak into the United States and live in constant terror of being caught, what kind of sympathy would or should you extend to them from the influential comfort and rights that you have as a citizen? If you knew of a family like this, would you help them, ignore them, or turn them in to the authorities?
2. Given that Jesus left his followers with a clear and simple directive to feed the hungry and cloth the poor, is it justifiable for individual Christians and/or churches to ignore these desperate families living in shadows in their own communities, simply because the law says these families are here illegally?
3. With the political power of the organized Christian right and its high-profile battles against pro-choice and homosexual rights, why has it been relatively silent on the issue of helping desperate families of illegal immigrants? Can this silence be justified from a faith perspective?
4. In what ways is the illegal immigrant situation creating a labor class that borders on slavery?
5. If a pill derived from an extremely limited genetic source could double human lifespan, which authorities should be given the power to decide who gets the pill, and what criteria should be used to determine who lives longer? How is this different than 'death panels' in regards to euthanasia, and how is it similar?
6. If a pill derived from an unlimited genetic source allowed everyone to double their lifespan, and you were the government authority to decide whether the knowledge of the pill should reach the world, what benefits and dangers could you foresee for humans collectively? Given how natural and financial resources are strained already, would your ultimate decision be to hide this knowledge completely, extend it to a privileged class, or share it freely?