

Discussion Questions for *7 Days in the Life of a Catastrophe*

1. What are some of the ways that each of us are “waist deep in oil?” (pg. 2, 8th paragraph)
2. The author comments that “after all his years in the West” the Buddhist monk doesn’t understand the role that oil plays in our society. Do you think he doesn’t understand or is he trying to create a vision for the future? How can we as individuals, and as a church, fit into this vision?
3. In Luke 10:25-29, we read two things. Jesus teaches us that we must love our neighbor as ourselves followed by his student posing the question “who is my neighbor?” Reflect upon this scripture. Are families and individuals in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast our neighbors? Does our continued consumption of oil allow us to treat our neighbors as ourselves?
4. The article touches briefly on the diverse communities that call the Gulf Coast home. Reports have shown that communities of color, particularly the Vietnamese have been disproportionately impacted by the oil spill and yet they lead a subsistence lifestyle, taking only that which they need to survive, selling some and eating virtually no processed food. What does this reveal about our communities? About various cultures? And about our ability/responsibility to respond to the needs of the Vietnamese community and others?
5. What are some of the ways your congregation can continue to support the Gulf Coast on the road to recovery?