## Sneak Peek

*Next week we will discuss the influence of culture in the lives of people and the importance of respecting the cultures of others. To help prepare for the discussion, watch the scene from the Scenes and Songs disc entitled, "That Instrument, for Me, Is Holy."*

## Closing Meditation

*Play the song "Rise and Dream" from the Scenes and Songs disc. Music and lyrics by Barclay Martin, from the CD Zamboanga: Poverty, War, Music (Copyright © 2009 CFCA).*

Start to *Rise and Dream*
Let your kindness breathe
We're made of starlight and stars
Dreams that regard
There's always a song to sing
And we will live
with the Earth
and people are worth
more than anything.

Peaceful people come
Whispers of Providence
We've come
to gather and learn
Stately and stirred
The barrier's burning down
Education's call
For one and all
There's Grace
upon the ground

What a day to rejoice
Lift up your voice
People will rise with you
The world has turned
Since the day you learned
That freedom of choice is true

When the rain falls
On the mountain
You will rise and
Dream again.

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# 'SHE WANTS TO SING'

## Introduction

Young people are God's gift and the hope of humanity. But not all young people are allowed to share their gifts with the world. In this session we will reflect on the gifts of youth and what helps, or inhibits, their realization.

RISE AND DREAM
EXPLORING THE DREAM

## Opening Reflection *(shared by leader)*

## Digging Deeper

*Read the following aloud within the group.*

There is a scene at the beginning of *Rise and Dream* that speaks to both the spirit and the dilemma of millions of young people. Ainee, one of the youth featured in the film, is washing dishes in her home. Surrounded by the trappings of poverty, she sings to herself while she works, transported by the romance of the tune. At that moment Ainee is living simultaneously in two worlds; the stark world of her present reality and the achingly beautiful world of a teenager's dreams.

To one extent or another, every young person knows what it is like to walk the narrow path between the problems of today and the promises of tomorrow. For young people who live in poverty the problems are greater and the promises fewer, but beyond that they are no different from other youth. They laugh, they cry, they struggle with balancing their various responsibilities, and they live in hope that their individual gifts will be recognized and appreciated.

The failure to recognize the giftedness of youth is one of the most damaging, and least discussed, aspects of global poverty. It is ironic that in our society, which has become increasingly aware of the need to preserve natural resources, the wasting of the greatest natural resource of all — human potential — goes largely unnoticed.

Human potential is wondrous because it flows from God. Formed on the faith of our organization's founders, CFCA operates on the belief that every human being was created uniquely by God and infused with a dignity that reflects God's own dignity. When that dignity is recognized and respected people live in loving community with one another. When we fail to recognize it — which includes the failure to nurture the God-given potential of the young — the world is diminished.

It was, in part, to call attention to the preciousness of human potential that *Rise and Dream* was made. While the film is, on the face of it, about a concert in the Philippines, it is really about what happens when eager young people are given unexpected opportunity. And, while it is primarily the story of 13 Filipino youth who received a particular opportunity, it is also, in a sense, the story of every young person who has ever dreamed of a future filled with possibilities.

## A Closer Look

*Watch the scene from the Scenes and Songs disc entitled "She Wants to Sing."*

## Questions for Group Discussion

1. Xarina describes herself as "small but terrible." Besides physical stature, in what ways could Xarina and the other young people in the film be thought of as "small?" In what ways could they be considered "terrible" (powerful)? How can a young person successfully balance these seemingly contradictory realities?

2. Lord Byron wrote that "In commitment, we dash the hopes of a thousand potential selves." Xarina and her parents speak of both her love of music and her desire to complete her formal education. Can Xarina keep both those passions alive or must one eventually be "dashed?" Is it possible to follow every dream? Why or why not?

3. Xarina's experience with CFCA has inspired her to want to become a nurse so she can help others as she herself was helped. Share an experience from your own life when the loving help of another person inspired you to do more than you thought you could do. What do you remember most about who that person was in your life? How has your experience of that person affected you going forward?

## Call to Action

*Choose one or more of the following, or develop other ideas within the group.*

1. We have just discussed the importance of keeping alive the hopes and dreams of young people. Learn about CFCA's *Dream Together* campaign by going to **www.riseanddream.com**, and share your own dream.

2. Find out about resources in your community for disadvantaged and at-risk young people. Look into ways to support or become involved in these community outreach opportunities.

WINNER
AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD
THIN LINE
FILM FEST
2012

### Did you know?

*Rise and Dream* won the audience choice award at the 2012 Thin Line Film Fest in Texas.