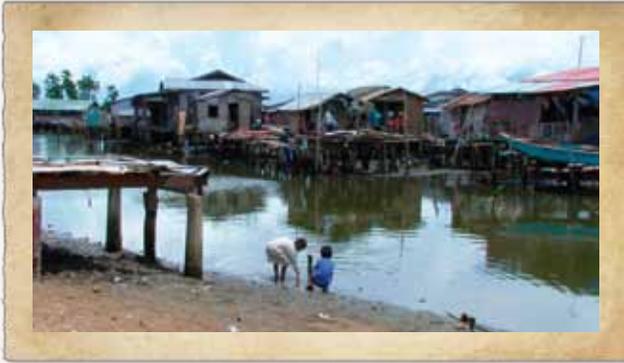


Sneak Peek

Next week is the final session in the series, and it focuses on the struggles of poverty. To help prepare for the discussion, watch the scene from the Scenes and Songs disc entitled, "One Work and One Eat."



Closing Meditation

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

Won't you take the time to know me well? The constant music of the mission bell And you decide As days go by Won't you take the time to know me well?	Won't you step inside my humble home? Til kindness is the only thing we know My father's face A mother's grace Won't you step inside my humble home?
Can you see a mother's hands get worn away? The balance and the beautiful array And her bones Can't bear the cold Can you see a mother's hands get worn away?	Did you hear the sound of crying in the night? The solitude of monumental light And in us all Do you recall The sound? Can you hear the song of children all around? And the messages of mercy still resound A mother's prayer Suspends the air Can you hear the song of children all around?
The miracle lay sleeping in the dark And the soldiers at the checkpoints all remark No one can see We still believe The miracle lay sleeping in the dark Ooh ...	Ooh ...

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'SOMETIMES WE CRY TOGETHER'

SESSION

5



Introduction

For most of us, the family is where we first learn how to love and the one place we can always go back to when we need to feel loved. For the young performers in *Rise and Dream*, family is the most important thing in their lives, and the driving force in their struggle to rise out of poverty.

RISE AND DREAM
EXPLORING THE DREAM

Opening Reflection *(shared by leader)*

Digging Deeper

Read the following aloud within the group.

All parents worry about their children, but for parents who live in poverty the worries are more acute because they are aware that regardless of how motivated and gifted their children are, it may not be enough. These parents carry in their hearts the constant ache of knowing that, no matter how hard they work, their children's dreams are unlikely to come true.

This is the reality for the families in *Rise and Dream* who struggle daily with the relentless burden of economic hardship. Some might expect the children in these families to be bitter about their lot in life, or even resentful of their parents' inability to provide more comforts. In fact, the opposite is true.

The *Rise and Dream* youth are deeply devoted to their parents and eager to help their families. During the time of filming most were working to help supplement the family income — no small thing considering the long hours they were already putting into school and preparing for the concert. And, while they were (and remain) profoundly grateful for the support provided through CFCA, like most of the young people with whom we work, they did not think of it as a personal opportunity so much as an opportunity for the family.

Still, we do not want to romanticize the family life of young people living in poverty. Navigating their way through the sometimes choppy seas of parental love and concern is as much a part of their reality as it is for any other teenager. And, because they and their parents are no more adept at the give and take of adolescent life than other families, they are as prone as any teen to the emotional bumps and bruises that come with the journey into adulthood.

The overwhelming takeaway of the family scenes in *Rise and Dream*, however, is that love is by far the best asset to get a family through what life throws at it. These are deeply loving families despite all they go through together and, in a way, also because of it. That, too, was part of the story of the concert and why, in the end, it was not only a celebration of the talents of 13 young people, but also a gift of hope for some very proud and very joyful parents.



A Closer Look

Watch the scene from the *Scenes and Songs* disc entitled “Sometimes We Cry Together.”

Questions for Group Discussion

1. Sadly, Ainee's mother passed away shortly after the filming for *Rise and Dream* was completed. In this scene it is not clear if Julieta was aware she would die soon, but it is certainly clear that she knew she would not always be able to be there for her children. The awareness of her limitations, and her honesty in sharing them, represented an act of love on Julieta's part. Reflect on a time in your life when, for the sake of love, you too had to be part of a difficult but important conversation. What did you learn from that experience?
2. In a way, the presence of Barclay in this scene provided Julieta and Ainee an opportunity to communicate with each other through him. Sometimes sharing thoughts with somebody outside an immediate situation can help family members (or friends, coworkers, etc.) express their feelings better than speaking directly to each other. Why do you think that is true? What does an outsider offer that somebody more personally involved in a situation cannot?
3. Julieta's last words in the scene were “... as long as you are alive, as long as you know that the things that you're doing are good, God is on your side.” In saying this, Julieta was sharing something of her personal creed or philosophy of life. If you knew that you and a loved one were about to have your last conversation, what personal beliefs or values would you want to share with that person?

Call to Action

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

1. Look into services in your community for families going through crisis. Often the children in these families need companionship and support, which can also lessen the burden of their working parents. See if opportunities exist for you or your group members to contribute in this way.
2. If you belong to a faith community, what activities are offered that support family life? These could be adult gatherings that offer child care, or gathered activities for the whole family. Check into ways you can help with these programs or, if your church does not offer them, help start one.