

Closing Meditation

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

It's midnight again Lonely, but hardly the end Of the day This prayer that I pray For our children to grow

And we'll call this town
The end of the line for now
My family tries
But never finds
A way out

I know that
Learning is all we have
To break the chains
While the wheel of poverty remains

For late night boys Running through streets of noise The market is closed And I feel like a ghost In the rain

For those good night girls
Dreaming of baby's curls
Wishing they knew
Just what to do
They're getting crushed by the wheel

I know that Learning is all we have To break the chains While the wheel of poverty remains

Kalingkawasa kapit-os (hangtud tanaan)

Until we all are free from poverty ...

'ONE WORK AND ONE EAT'





Introduction

There is more than one kind of poverty. Some people live in economic poverty and some live in the poverty of disconnection from the realities of others. Part of the hopeful news in the world today is that the solution for both kinds of poverty is found in building bridges of community, understanding and compassion between individuals and groups.



Opening Reflection (shared by leader)

Digging Deeper

Read the following aloud within the group.

There is a cruel anonymity that comes with poverty. If we think of the poor at all we tend to think of them not as individuals with their own hopes and dreams, gifts and flaws, habits, quirks and humors — in other words, all the things that make a person interesting and unique — but rather as a nameless, faceless mass of inconsequential people living somewhere on the edges of society. We feel for them (vaguely) but we don't really know them.

Christian Foundation for Children and Aging believes that knowing makes a difference. We strive to build bridges of understanding and compassion between people of different backgrounds and situations. We want to proclaim to the world that people who live in poverty are individuals with stories that deserve to be told, and that those stories bless those who choose to listen to them.

The stories of the young people at the heart of our film are defined partly — and only partly — by poverty. If their circumstances were different, they would still be who they are. Mark would still want to bang the drums and Wengie would still hate math. The difference is that they would have more choices.

The brutality of lacking choices is hard to understand for people with means. Most of us can't wrap our minds around having to decide between medicine for a sick child or food for the family, shoes to walk to school or a roof for the house. Fresh water, fuel for cooking and private toilets are not normally concerns for us, but for the poor the scarcity of these things is part of the relentless inconvenience and indignity that is their daily reality. That, too, is part of the message of *Rise and Dream*.

We chose the Philippines as the backdrop for this particular story, but we could easily have chosen one of hundreds of other locations in the countries where CFCA works. In any of our projects throughout India, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America there are countless stories waiting to be told — stories of hope in the midst of hardship, stories of the stubbornness of joy, and stories of friendships that defy the limits of language, distance, culture, religion and economics.

By making a connection with a child or aging person through sponsorship, you too can become a part of one of these amazing stories. At the end of the session we will tell you how.

A Closer Look

Watch the scene from the Scenes and Songs disc entitled, "One work and one eat."

Questions for Group Discussion

- 1. Ainee sums up a basic dilemma of poverty when she says, "If you are not poor, you will be able to go to school. And if you go to school, you will have your job. Simple as that." While some Americans take educational opportunities for granted, people in economically developing countries understand that school is their best hope for breaking the cycle of poverty. What have you learned about the challenges for children wanting to attend school in places like the Philippines?
- 2. In another scene, we meet Ryan's father, Felix, who makes his living driving passengers around Zamboanga City in his three-wheeled taxi. Felix gives us a lesson in the economics of poverty when he shares that, after expenses, he takes home about \$5 for his 14 hours of daily work about 36 cents an hour. He describes the reality of his family's situation as "one work and one eat." What does this show you about why, for families like Felix's, it is hard to get ahead? How does Felix's story mesh with the belief of some people that the poor are responsible for their own plight?
- 3. In this scene we learn how CFCA sponsorship works. For each child in the program there is one sponsor whose support provides for basic needs such as education, nutrition and medical care. The sponsors and children communicate with each other through letters, pray for each other and, in some cases, sponsors visit their sponsored children. How do you think the CFCA approach to sponsorship benefits the sponsor as well as the child? How do you think it benefits our world?

Call to Action

The young people featured in *Rise and Dream* were supported through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. CFCA works with more than 270,000 sponsors to provide support, encouragement and hope to more than 300,000 children, youth and aging persons in 22 countries around the world.

We encourage you to learn more about the work of CFCA and how you can partner with us to bring hope into a child's life. As a group, watch the video *One Dream: The story of Rey and Allison* included in the "Extras" on the *Scenes and Songs* disc. Then check out our website, www.hopeforafamily.org, where you will find children like those in the film waiting for a sponsor and their chance to rise and dream.