

Introduction

Prior to the start of the film, select a “brave soul” who can handle being singled out to represent Margaret. This individual must be comfortable speaking and standing alone as a part of the post-film wrap up. Identify the rest of the group as either “Christine,” “Samuel,” or “Derick” as they walk into the room.

context

- This film is based on a true story.
- The story unfolds in Uganda.
- There are similar situations unfolding all over the world (mention the work of Covenant Kids, Covenant World Relief, and Paul Carlson Partnership).
- The children identified in the film are children who are sponsored by a family through World Vision.
- We have a similar opportunity to sponsor children like the ones in the film through Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision and their work in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

welcome

“In the spirit of our Congolese brothers and sisters, I greet you in Lingala! The word for hello in Lingala is “Mbotel!” (Allow them to practice saying the welcome in return).

“Today we will journey together to another land, a place of laughter and joy, but also a place of hardship and struggle, where life isn’t easy for anyone, but especially difficult for children.”

Ask: “Why is the journey important?” (Allow for a couple of responses.) “Because our brothers and sisters in Christ are family, and we should recognize their needs and let the Spirit guide our response. Today we will be watching the film “Journey to Jamaa”. Jamaa means ‘home’ or ‘home with family’ in Swahili. The film is about loss, fear, doubt, and struggle, but in the end, it is about **hope**.

pre-film talking points

“When you came in today, you were told the character in the film that you are to represent. Each of you represent a character facing real issues that children, families, and entire communities in many parts of the world face everyday.”

(Ask individuals identified as Samuel to stand.)

“In a minute, we are going to meet Samuel. He represents fathers struggling to provide for their families under the crushing burden of poverty. Imagine coming home from another day of backbreaking labor in the fields. Your children are hungry and you can’t afford to feed them. In these situations, people live on less than \$1 a day—barely enough for food and shelter, much less medicine and education.

Even the most fortunate families still have to decide which of their children they can afford to send to school. If you were in that position, which of your children would you choose?" **(Allow a moment for reflection and then response.)** "No matter how hard or long you work, it will never be enough. For millions of fathers like Samuel, hunger, illness, and the inability to meet the most basic needs is a constant reality. In developing countries, half of people live in poverty. That means if there are eight people sitting in your row today, four of you are struggling like Samuel. It would be as though 50% of our church faced hunger on a daily basis. Take a moment to imagine that."

(Ask individuals identified as Samuel to take their seats.)

(Ask individuals identified as Christine to stand.)

"You represent mothers struggling to keep their families together in the face of poverty and disease. Imagine that you and your five children live in an underdeveloped country. You need water for cooking, cleaning, and washing, but the closest source is a muddy hole four miles away. Two times every day, you make this trek. Four miles is a long way home with 40 pounds of water or more strapped to your back. Unfortunately, this isn't unique. In developing countries, many women like you spend hours each day—in some cases up to six or eight hours—hauling water! Your daughters should be in school, but instead they have to help you. Without an education, they have no hope of escaping poverty. What's worse, the water you collect is a breeding ground for diseases like typhoid, cholera, and dysentery. And when your kids get sick, there's no money to go to the clinic. Mothers in developing countries have the same dreams for their children that your mothers and loved ones have for you. We all want our children to stay healthy, get a good education, and have a bright future. But how would you make that happen if you had to spend eight hours every day getting water?"

(Ask individuals identified as Christine to take their seats.)

(Ask individuals identified as Derick to stand.)

"You represent children who have lost their childhood. You are only eleven years old, yet you have the responsibilities of an adult. No one tucks you in at night, no one washes your clothes, and you never have a chance to play. You're on your own—supporting others, like your younger sister and sick mother. Their survival depends on you. Going to school is out of the question. You'll probably never have a job other than poorly paid physical labor. You live at the mercy of others because you don't know how to read—not even the instructions on a medicine bottle. This makes you extremely vulnerable. You might become an orphan. You might be abducted—made to fight as a child soldier or sold into slavery by child traffickers. You could be forced to work 10-14 hour days, every day, to keep from starving. How do you feel?"

(Ask individuals identified as Derick to take their seats.)

film Introduction

"Just like Samuel, Christine, and Derick, millions of mothers, fathers, and children are facing these struggles each day. It seems overwhelming, doesn't it? But even in the worst situations, there is hope. Help is coming when it is needed most. As the story of Derick and his sister Margaret will show, God is present! He sees the helpless, and we are called to see them too—and respond to their needs. As we journey to Africa today, you'll see the hand of God working one child at a time, one village at a time, through churches like ours. And now I invite you to step into their world and journey with them into the depths of your own heart!

(Show the film by going online to <http://jamaa.worldvision.org/jamaa-film-preview.html>)

post-film wrap up

"We've seen firsthand the challenges that parents like Samuel and Christine face as they struggle to care for their families in the midst of overwhelming poverty. And we've journeyed with Derick, experiencing the loneliness, fear, and uncertainty that are all too familiar to children in his situation. There is one other character in the film—Margaret. If you have identified yourself as Margaret in the film, please, stand."

(Allow the individual identified as Margaret to stand.)

"How does it feel to stand alone?" **(Allow the person to respond)** "It's vulnerable. That same vulnerability is what many children just like Margaret experience every day. She's a young child without parents, who is now dependent on her 11-year-old brother for survival. This is a situation no child should ever be in."

"And we have the power, right now, to make a difference. Through Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision, we have the ability to sponsor a child in the Equateur Province of the DRC. When we demonstrate God's love by helping children in need, our own lives are changed profoundly. By seeing a child restored physically and spiritually through us working together and standing alongside those who could use our helping hands, God's whole family can gain a new perspective. And it only takes one person deciding to make a difference in one child's life."

(Read & discuss Luke 15:4, Matthew 12:18-21;18:1-5, and Isaiah 42:3)

closing

Benediction: Read Proverbs 31:8-9. Close in prayer. Invoke a Question & Answer period as needed or as time permits.

for more info

For more information regarding our ministry, go to CovChurch.org/covenantkidscongo. To sponsor a child today go to CovenantKidsCongo.org. If you have any questions/concerns, please call us at 773-596-2489 or email covenantkidscongo@covchurch.org.

"And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them, and blessed them"

- Mark 10:16