

Facilitator's Guide



Thank You!

Thank You!

- Thank you for opening a space to share the film “Mercy’s Blessing” to inspire courage for change.
- Over 100 initiatives in more than 40 countries world-wide are using “Mercy’s Blessing” as a tool to inspire us, challenge our assumptions, re-orient our perspectives, expand our consciousness, and focus our energies on personal and collective transformation.
- The film is being used in diverse settings, such as schools, junior youth groups, universities, youth clubs, community centres, cafés, theatres, office spaces, and living rooms.
- The age group of participants varies from junior youth to youth and adults.
- This guide will help you to prepare for your role as facilitator. It’s based on accumulated experiences from around the world.
- We hope it proves fruitful in your endeavours to raise awareness and to bring about meaningful change.

Mercy’s Blessing

Is there always a choice?



Approach

What is our approach?

- Your role as facilitator is to invite participants to explore the themes of the film.
- The booklet, “Workshop’s Questions”, has a series of question that you can choose from to stimulate thought and action.
- The approach we have taken is to choose a character (e.g. Blessings) and to explore the themes associated with his story (e.g. sacrifice, privilege).
- For each character, the questions relate to three levels of understanding:
 1. A basic comprehension of their storyline. What is their story? And why do they make their choices?
 2. Exploring the themes associated with the character (e.g. education, gender roles).
 3. Understanding the implications of these themes in our own lives.
- Feel free to also develop your own approach to facilitate . This booklet and the “Workshop’s Questions” are only tools to assist you.



Practical Tips

How big are the groups?

- The group of participants may consist from a handful of people in a living room to a large group of people in a public setting.
- When the group is larger in size you can either decide to explore the themes in the entire group or to break up into smaller groups with separate facilitators, and then later share insights collectively.

How much time do the discussions take?

- The film is 30 minutes long. Experience has shown that:
 - The minimum time for a meaningful discussion is 30 minutes.
 - Most groups allocate between 60 to 90 minutes for discussion.
 - Some groups plan a whole morning or afternoon for discussion (3 to 4 hours).
 - Some groups that meet regularly choose to go through all the materials at their own pace over a period of time. They also re-watch the film or parts of it in later sessions.
- It is important to be realistic about how much discussion material you can cover.
- We suggest you read the entire “Workshop’s questions” booklet and identify beforehand those sections, themes, or exercises you wish to explore.
- However limited your time, try to always include some of the questions or exercises that discuss the implications of the theme on the participants own life. This brings the materials back to the individual’s own reality where changes can take place.

Which languages are available?

- “Mercy’s Blessing” has subtitled versions in a variety of languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, Greek, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish. For a complete list, please visit our website mercysblessing.com
- If your local language is not available and you wish to assist with the translating process, please contact us at mercysblessing@gmail.com we will send you the relevant files to get started. This will be a great service to us and the people in your region.

Getting Started

Check image and sound

- Before the start of any screening, check that the image on the screen looks good.
- Make sure the volume is loud enough so that the audience is able to experience the film to its fullest.
- If possible, switch off lights and darken the room.
- Ask everyone to switch off their cell phones.

How to introduce the film?

- Keep it short and simple. Some points you can share:
 - “Mercy’s Blessing” was filmed in Malawi.
 - It’s a short film of 30 minutes.
 - This film has been shown at over 20 film festivals around the world and has won 12 international film awards (including Best Short Foreign Film and Best Director).
- In a few moments you will be taken into an African village, where you will experience a rhythm of life that may be different from where you live.
- Enjoy the film!

How do I start the discussions?

- The film touches the heart and can stir emotions. Therefore, wait until the credits completely finish and let there be some silence before you speak; this way the participants can reflect and transition into the discussion part.
- Recommended first question: “Any thoughts or comments? How do you feel?” Allow a few people to share their reflections and then move onto the workshop questions.

Reflect and Share

Your feedback will help us!

- Each time you facilitate a discussion it will be a different experience. Reflecting after each session helps you to learn and build your capacity as a facilitator.
- Your sharing of experiences allows us to gather insights from across the world so that we can continue to learn how to use the film most effectively in different spaces, cultures and age groups.

Facilitator's Feedback Form

- Please complete the online form for facilitators at: <https://goo.gl/forms/hlcEG2BlkU0ARx7d2>
- Or download the form from VIDEOCAMP <http://www.videocamp.com/en/movies/mercy-s-blessing> and email it to mercysblessing@gmail.com

Photos

- Please take photos of the screenings and discussions as these will be used for documentation purposes.
 1. Send photos to mercysblessing@gmail.com
 2. On the subject line of your e-mail write: "Mercy's Blessing Images"
- Occasionally we may wish to use images for displays, publications, our website and social media pages related to "Mercy's Blessing". Please indicate if your images (or which ones) can be used for "Mercy's Blessing" promotional materials. Thank you!

