

This Discussion Guide serves as a prompt for Educators to stimulate conversation with learners before and after viewing the short film, “Without Home.”

**Lesson Length:** This lesson may be as brief as 45 minutes to address select Discussion Questions and Activities from the left column below prior to and/or after viewing the film. The lesson may last as long as 90 minutes with in-depth conversations and learning activities derived from the left column below.

**Lesson Target Age Range:** The lesson based upon the short film, “Without Home,” maybe suitable for any young person in their early teens to early twenties, and into adulthood.

Discussion Questions/Activities Before Viewing Film	Desired Responses and Notes for Educators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Think about the title of the film, “Without Home.” How do you view the term, “home?” What does it mean to you?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Encourage learners to share their emotional connections to the concept of home, recognizing that not everybody will have a positive response to the word.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How important is your home to your family? To you? Why do you think you attach that emotional value to where you live?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ American society tends to place heavy emphasis on material wealth as an outward expression of a person’s value and self-worth.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How much of your self-worth and perceptions of your own value wrapped up in the material possessions you own? If so, why? If not, why not?</li> <li>◆ Provide examples of the items you own that you feel define you as a person. List items you own that you feel do not define you as a person.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ This listing exercise has potential to reveal different levels of self-awareness about how much people of all ages tend to identify their self-worth and perceptions of others based upon material possessions.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How would you cope if you were to lose all of your possessions? In what ways would this loss impact your emotional well-being? What impact would the loss have on your current state of self-worth?</li> <li>◆ What steps would you take to recover from this loss?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Encourage learners to share the resources and avenues they would leverage should their circumstances change and they lose their possessions.</li> </ul>

- ◆ What are your views on the current state of homelessness in America?
- ◆ What are the factors that cause a person to become homeless in the United States?
- ◆ What do you imagine when you consider a person who is experiencing homelessness? What specific characteristics would you see in this person or family?
- ◆ To what degree is homelessness the fault of the individual? Or, does homelessness occur out of “no fault of their own?”

- ◆ There are multiple factors that contribute to a person becoming homeless. Some become homeless only for a brief period of time. This is referred to as “episodic” homelessness. Others end up homeless for a long time, or even for the remainder of their lives. This is referred to as “chronic” homelessness.
- ◆ Homelessness can be caused by economic conditions. More likely, homelessness occurs in lives because of broken relationships and mental health issues. These challenges are much more complex to address than simple Financial Capability knowledge and skills.

Discussion Questions/Activities After Viewing Film	Desired Responses and Notes for Educators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ What is your reaction to the statistics displayed at the beginning of this film?</li> <li>◆ Based upon your experiences, where would you have expected the numbers to be? Higher? Lower? Different? In what way?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The response to this question may be based upon the geographic location of the learning group. Some rural and metropolitan areas have greater concentrations of “visible” homeless populations.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ What is your reaction to the “poetic” way that such a harsh subject is shared in this film?</li> <li>◆ In what ways do you think you were, as the viewer, more open to learning about the topic because of the way it was artfully presented?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Discuss the power that an emotional message can have on viewers of a film.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ In the film, Lewis states that he is “looking for love.” What do you think is meant by this expression?</li> <li>◆ Go back to your definition for “home.” In what ways are your definitions for “home” and “love” connected?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Continue to delve into the connection between love and home, recognizing that different learners will hold different emotional responses to this topic.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ In the film, Lewis states that he has “lost the connection to society and its regulation.” What does that statement mean to you?</li> <li>◆ Lewis also states he is a “victim of unforeseen consequences.” How much do you believe this to be true for him? For any homeless person?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ This is a complex question that does not have one answer, or one correct answer. Homelessness is often a result of both influences happening at the same time—internal and external, within the person and outside the person.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ In what ways has your perspective on the crisis of homelessness in the United States changed by the viewing of this film?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Homelessness is a crisis that every community faces. And it is up to the community to explore solutions for serving those in need in their immediate area.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ What should you do when you encounter a person who is homeless in your community?</li> <li>◆ What should you not do?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Please consider connecting with a local homeless outreach ministry or service to learn from their expertise what approaches are recommended and not recommended in your immediate area.</li> </ul>