

About Stuck

Produced in one of the leading counties in the United States for babies being born to unwed mothers, *Stuck* and its companion Discussion Guide are designed to drive awareness and create conversations around fatherlessness and forgiveness.



Rael Thigpen - "Darren"

Rael Thigpen was born in Greenville, North Carolina. Since early childhood through high school he was a part of Building Hope Community Life Center. After graduating from J. H. Rose High School, he began studying Cinematic Arts and Theater at Liberty University. He played lead roles in various performances and student films during his studies and interned at the Cannes Film Festival. In the short film "Stuck", Rael portrays Darren, a teen who runs away when he learns his father is being released from prison.

About Stories of Hope Films

A collaboration between Building Hope and production company Buzzadelic, Stories of Hope Films exists to create life-changing content while developing and employing at-risk youth. Learn more at storiesofhopefilms.com.

About Building Hope Community Life Center

Located in Greenville NC, Building Hope is a comprehensive program designed to help young children and families become successful by developing the spiritual and moral infrastructure as well as the necessary educational skills to overcome the economic and cultural hardships and hindrances of life.

Support This Project

You can support this project by making a tax-deductible donation to Building Hope Community Life Center. Visit buildinghopenc.org for more information or send to:

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RAEL
THIGPEN

BUDDY
BOYD

NYROBI
THOMAS

JODY
VINES

STUCK

A STORIES OF HOPE SHORT FILM



DISCUSSION GUIDE

How to use this guide:

This guide is designed to be used for leading discussions on the topics and issues addressed in the film.

1. Watch the entire short film together as a group. (About 16 minutes.)
2. Use the following Discussion Questions and the Discussion Guide menu on the DVD as needed to review the various moments in the film.
3. Use the scripture referenced within the Leader Points section to help facilitate the discussion.

[MOMENT ONE] Unresolved Issues

Moment to Review

Darren and his mother are anxious after receiving a phone call from his father in prison.

Discussion Questions

1. What seems to be Darren's issue in this scene?
2. How does bitterness affect us and our relationships with others?
3. What are the signs that someone is struggling with bitterness because of unresolved conflict?
4. Are there relationships that are broken in your life?



[Leader Points]

- Have the group read and consider Ephesians 4:26 and 4:31.
- At some point, unresolved anger and bitterness will result in behavior that is not healthy.
- What are some indicators that unforgiveness may be lying beneath the surface?
- Dealing with issues as soon as they arise will prevent bitterness and resentment.
- Identifying broken relationships and admitting there is an issue is the first step toward restoration.

[MOMENT TWO] Dangerous Places

Moment to Review

Darren's anger leads him to some dangerous places with the potential to compound his problems.

Discussion Questions

1. What does running away accomplish when we face conflict?
2. Why is isolation a bad decision when we are hurt or faced with challenges?
3. What are some alternatives to isolating ourselves from others?
4. What are some ways that God extended his grace to you when you were in rebellion?



[Leader Points]

- Have the group read and consider Proverbs 14:12 and Hebrews 10:22-25.
- Being out of the will of God is a dangerous place. There are consequences that we will need to face as a result of our rebellion.
- Isolation is the opposite of fellowship. Surrounding ourselves with Godly people is where we will find the support needed in difficult times.

Bad choices have a way of catching up with us.



[MOMENT THREE] The Cover Up

Moment to Review

Darren's desperation leads him to a church where he finds himself locked in for the night with a homeless man, who covers for him when authorities arrive.



Discussion Questions

1. Why does the homeless man tell Darren to hide and cover for him?
2. What was likely to happen if Darren had been caught?
3. How do we develop the wisdom and heart that the homeless man demonstrates?
4. How do we change our perspective to see others as God sees them?



"I didn't see a thief...I just saw someone who was lost, searching for something."

[Leader Points]

- Have the group read and consider 1 Peter 4:8 and Proverbs 10:12.
- Seek to understand how God sees people and find their redemptive value.
- Ask God for wisdom and his heart toward others in need of mercy and grace.

[MOMENT FOUR] The Forgiveness Option

Moment to Review

Darren is presented with a new path to freedom by forgiving his father.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do we seek forgiveness last when we have been hurt?
2. What does blaming others accomplish?
3. How does the relationship with our earthly father impact our relationship with our heavenly father?
4. What does it take to understand and choose the option of forgiveness?



"...you will never be free until you stop running and forgive..."



[Leader Points]

- Have the group read and consider Colossians 3:13 and Mark 11:25.
- Forgiveness means releasing the offenses against us.
- How we see our earthly father impacts our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

[MOMENT FIVE] Surrender

Moment to Review

When Darren surrenders what he has put his hope in, he finds himself released to move forward in freedom.

Discussion Questions

1. What walls seem to start coming down in Darren's heart?
2. What does being free spiritually do for us physically? In other words, how does our faith manifest itself externally?
3. What are the next steps Darren needs to take to move forward toward reconciliation?



[Leader Points]

- Have the group read and consider James 4:7-10 and Acts 3:19.
- When we make the right choices and are in a right relationship with God, doors open for us. When we have our vertical relationship right with our heavenly father, we can reconcile our horizontal relationships with others.



Doors open when we surrender our hearts.

[MOMENT SIX] The Road to Reconciliation

Moment To Review

Darren decides to return home to face his father's release from prison.

Discussion Questions

1. Does Darren's father appear to be open to reconciliation?
2. What needs to happen next for restoration to take place in the family?
3. How do we turn our hearts toward those facing fatherlessness and broken relationships?
4. What action is required and how do we pursue those opportunities?



[Leader Points]

- Have the group read and consider 1 John 1:9 and 2 Corinthians 5:18.
- God's heart is that we pursue restoration in all of our relationships and be ministers of reconciliation.
- Consider God's call to turn our hearts to the fatherless. Look for ways your group can become involved in the ministry of reconciliation through mentoring and volunteering with organizations addressing the issue of fatherlessness.

