

Street Language Discussion Guide – General Audiences

After viewing the film, feel free to choose some or all of these questions to help your group to think through the story and how it connects with your lives.

Opening Questions:

1. Stories affect each of us in different ways. Describe your thoughts or feelings immediately after watching the film. What words would you use to describe this story?
2. What images, actions, dialogue, or themes in the film are most significant to you?
3. Stories often begin with, "*the way the world is.*" How would you describe Jacob's world at the beginning of the film? What words or phrases would you use to describe his character, lifestyle, feelings, and attitudes?
4. Why do you think Jacob chooses to help Michael in the alley?
5. How was Jacob's decision to help Michael challenged over the course of the film? How did you feel about his choices?
6. Jacob isn't able to save Michael's life. Michael dies. How did you feel about that and the interactions and choices that preceded it?
7. How did Michael and Jacob grow or change during the course of their brief relationship? Do you feel it was positive or negative?

Digging Deeper:

1. If you found yourself in Jacob's situation, in the alley, what would you do, and why? Have you ever found yourself in a position similar to Jacob's or Michael's? (perhaps not laying in an alley after a beating, but...)
2. How do you feel about taking risks in general? What sorts of situations tend to make you *more* willing to take risks?
3. We each need and seek different things in our relationships. What would you say Jacob and Michael each need in theirs?
4. When you see people on the street, at school, or work, do you ever imagine what their life is like? When you see someone like Jacob or Michael on the street, what is our normal reaction, if any?

Your Response:

1. What words would you use to describe yourself when placed in a situation that may call for risk?
2. Do you know people who have a hard time relating to others or connecting personally in a deep way? What might you be able to do to help them?
3. Have you ever felt distant or disconnected from others? Do you understand why you might feel that way?
4. After watching ***Street Language*** and seeing the experience of Jacob and Michael, do feel any different? Are there people or situations you might look at in a different light – ways you might think or act differently?