

# EXPERIENCE ANOTHER WORLD

Without Leaving Yours

## EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Compassion® works in some of the toughest and grittiest places on the planet. Children growing up in these environments are extremely vulnerable. The crippling effects of poverty magnify crime, abandonment, abuse and other challenges they face in their lives.

We view The Compassion Experience as a resource to help you, as a parent, bring your children into a larger conversation about helping others and showing compassion to the vulnerable children in other parts of the world. We have designed The Compassion Experience to be generally appropriate for all ages, however we are mindful that small children are impacted in different ways by stories.

Below is an overview of the stories featured in The Compassion Experience to help you understand the subject matter presented and to decide if there is content that might be too sensitive for your child.

## JONATHAN'S STORY

Jonathan is an out-going, fun-loving little boy living in a rough part of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic where he lives with his mother. However, he is ashamed of the effects of poverty in his life. The constant struggle for food and being teased because of his tattered clothes hurts Jonathan deeply. He struggles to do the right thing when confronted with opportunities to take the easy way out and join a gang. Through the support of his mother, sponsor, and a very special mentor, Jonathan discovers his unique gifts and is challenged to use them for God's purpose.

### INTENSE CONTENT/SETTING

We hear Jonathan recall a confrontation with his father, in which he's told that he's "a mistake".

### VIOLENCE/GANGS

We hear about Jonathan's anger and how it manifests into fights at school. A local gang pressures Jonathan to steal some fruit from a street vendor and join their gang.

### DRUGS

Jonathan tells us his neighborhood is referred to as "Villa Cocaine" because of the rampant drug use in that area.

### FAMILY DYNAMICS

Jonathan's mother gave birth to him out of wedlock and Jonathan's father already had a wife and other children at the time.

### THEMES

Abandonment, single-parent, anger, gangs

## KIWI'S STORY

Kiwi lives in Bacolod City, Philippines, in a small hut with many family members. Kiwi's mother endures extreme pain while giving birth to her third child who does not survive. Kiwi is her parents' fourth child and only the first to survive. Kiwi's father often passes out from drinking too much alcohol. Her parents struggle to get by, selling food in the market. Kiwi's mother often considers leaving her family to make more money working overseas, which makes Kiwi and her little sister very unhappy. The family moves to Manila for work, but the frequent floods that sweep trash, sewage and dead rats into their home often disrupt their lives. As she grows older, Kiwi worries that she won't be able to attend college and will have to take work overseas where she would be treated almost as a slave.

### ALCOHOL ABUSE

Kiwi's father collects bottles from a local bar and drinks the remaining alcohol in them until he passes out.

### INTENSE CONTENT/SETTING

Kiwi's mother is cut without anesthesia and experiences extreme pain when she gives birth to one of her children who does not survive. Kiwi tells a story about the floods that sweep through her home in Manila.

### THEMES

Alcohol abuse, poor medical care, death of a child at birth, child-protection, alluding to indentured servitude and poverty

## OLIVE'S STORY

Olive lives in Mucwini, Uganda with her sisters, cousins and grandparents. She desperately wants to go to school like her friends, but her grandfather tells her she is too small. The Lord's Resistance Army kidnaps Olive's friends. Olive and her family must split up and hide from the soldiers in the dark of night. Olive is terrified that she will be found and taken away. To protect her, Olive's grandparents send Olive and her sister to live with their mother in Kampala. Olive's mother is very sick and the living situation in the city is poor. Olive has a dream of getting an education so she can help children living in similar situations. When Olive's mother passes away, she is scared that she will have to drop out of school and get married. But, God is looking out for her. Through the support of her Compassion sponsors and knowing that God has a plan for her life, Olive is able to fight her own bout of illness. She earns a volleyball scholarship to attend a University in the United States. Today, Olive serves children in need, like she once was.

### SENSITIVE CONTENT

Olive's story deals with intense situations related to soldiers and child abductions. Her mother suffers from AIDS and dies when Olive is only eleven years old. From a young age, Olive must learn to fend for herself in a world that is violent and dangerous for a child. The threat of being kidnapped is a reality that lasts the duration of Olive's childhood.