

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.

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 the time.

CARLOS' STORY

In Totonicapan, Guatemala, a very young boy named Carlos works long days with his father to help support his family. His father is an alcoholic and as a result, he becomes very sick and passes away while Carlos is very young. Carlos' life becomes more difficult as he tries to care for his mother and help provide for his family. Strong influences from his family reinforce a culture that to be a man, you need a job and education is not valued...even for young ages. Forced to grow up too soon, he battles loneliness and fights to hold onto his hope for the future. God has different plans for Carlos. Through the adversity he faces, he shows great faith, which provides security, strength, and amazing hope not only for him, but his entire family.

SENSITIVE CONTENT:

Carlos refers to his mother and father fighting. Carlos mentions that His father often drank and it is implied that he was abusive to his mother though not mentioned directly. Carlos' father eventually dies as a result of his drinking. His mother also begins drinking and Carlos, still a child, follows her to the bars to try and protect her. A simple street view of the bar is depicted. The room is dark with the sounds of rowdy patrons. In time, Carlos' mother stops drinking...largely due to her young son's strength. Though not directly mentioned, themes of child labor exist as Carlos takes jobs at a very young age.

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.