

EXPERIENCE ANOTHER WORLD

Without Leaving Yours

NOTE TO PARENTS

Compassion works in some of the toughest places on the planet. Children growing up in these environments are extremely vulnerable. The stories we profile in The Compassion Experience contain true realities that are faced everyday by children living on less than \$1.50/day. We take great effort to avoid sensationalizing dark circumstances and try to tell the bigger story of these children who are on a journey from poverty to hope.

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 in other parts of the world. We have designed the experience to be generally appropriate for all ages, however we are mindful that small children are all impacted differently by stories they hear.

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

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.

SHAMIM'S STORY

Despite living in humble poverty with her Grandmother in Uganda, Shamim is a joy-filled little girl with big dreams. Shamim's joy turns to despair when she loses her hearing through a series of preventable circumstances. Living with a disability in deeply impoverished areas most often results in a life of hopelessness. With the help and support of her church and Compassion sponsor, Shamim finds a new direction for her life to rise up and serve the special needs community in Uganda. This story profiles her strength and the beauty that can be found within potentially tragic circumstances when good people act on behalf of the hopeless.

SENSITIVE CONTENT:

Shamim deals with abandonment and grapples with despair over her circumstances. Living with a special need in an impoverished area brings heartbreaking circumstances.