

Movie Discussion Guide: "The Sound of Freedom" (2023)

Summary:

"The Sound of Freedom" is a 2023 film based on a true story. The movie follows the story of Tim Ballard, a former Department of Homeland Security Investigator (HIS) agent. After rescuing a boy, Miguel from being sexually exploited and later smuggled from Guatemala to the United States, Tim learns that Miguel's sister is still being held captive by the same child traffickers in South America. Tim decides to quit his job, 10-months away from his pension from the Department of Homeland Security and embarks on a mission to save her in the jungles of Colombia. Tim Ballard later forms a nonprofit organization called Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.) to rescue children from sex trafficking around the world. The film depicts his dangerous and emotional journey as he and his team work undercover to free innocent lives.

Themes to Reflect:

- 1. Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery:** Discuss the portrayal of human trafficking in the movie. How did the film depict the harsh realities faced by victims? What can we learn about conflict areas, and improve them so victims are less vulnerable to this crime?
- 2. Heroism and Sacrifice:** Explore the concept of heroism as depicted by Tim Ballard and his team. How did their actions promote justice? Sometimes we must make sacrifices in both our personal and professional life, to promote justice. How can we do this to fight the crime of human trafficking in our world?
- 3. Good vs. Evil:** Examine the film's representation of the battle between good and evil. How are these themes illustrated through the characters, plot, and their actions? Discuss the moral dilemmas faced by the characters.
- 4. Empathy and Resilience:** Reflect on the emotional resilience displayed by both survivors and the rescue team. How did empathy play a role in their actions and reactions? What emotions did this film evoke? What role do we have to protect the human dignity and life of oth victims and perpetrators?
- 5. Collaboration and Unity:** As Pope Francis calls all Catholics to unite and combat the issue of human trafficking, reflect on how the characters worked together as a team to combat human trafficking. Discuss the significance of collaboration and unity in the Church and as a society, in the role of addressing global challenges.

Discussion Questions:

1. What impact did the film have on your understanding of human trafficking? Were there any moments or scenes that particularly resonated with you? Were you surprised by some of the events that occurred?
2. Analyze the character development of key figures in the film, such as Tim Ballard and the survivors. How did their experiences shape their personalities and choices? How can we take these developments for our personal life, and work towards fighting injustices in our world?
3. The movie highlights the **global** nature of human trafficking. These pose serious challenges at the international level. Human trafficking occurs within every country, and in every city, what are some ways to address and learn about these issues in our own cities, neighborhoods, schools, and backyards.
4. Consider the role of awareness and advocacy in combating human trafficking. How did the film portray the power of spreading awareness and inspiring action? How aware is your community on this issue of human trafficking? How can you bring this awareness to at the local level, beginning with your home?
5. Were there moments of moral ambiguity or difficult decisions in the film? How did the characters navigate these situations, and what were the consequences of their choices? What decisions can we make today that can result in good outcomes to prevent human trafficking?
 - a. A good answer to this is pornography, online exploitation, respect for the person, etc. Do not know how to ask the question and lead it to this route?
6. What examples of exploitation did the movie exclude? This is one example of human trafficking that was addressed, do you know of other examples?
7. What stereotypes did the movie include? What real-life examples did the movie include? Many cases within our own cities, borders and countries have different recruitment tactics used by perpetrators depending on the vulnerabilities of victims. Do you know of other examples occurring where you are living?