



## **STUCK Documentary Discussion Guide**

While focused on inter-country adoption, the documentary STUCK can be a catalyst for discussion of many expressions of what it means to work for the good of orphans and vulnerable children worldwide.

Our hope is that this discussion guide will help you make the most of this opportunity. It's a chance to spur each other on -- from apathy to concern...from concern to understanding...and from understanding to wisdom-guided action.

As you view STUCK, we encourage you to consider these questions with others who share God's heart for orphans. Above all, commit to pray for lasting change for orphans around the world.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. STUCK focuses on many vital issues affecting the lives of orphans. What issues raised by the film concern you most? Were there any issues about which you were previously unaware?
2. What do you believe is in the "best interest" of children that do not have the love and care of a permanent family? What is the role of international adoption in achieving this? What should be the response of Christians worldwide? What is the role of the local church?
3. When might adoption not be best or even appropriate for some children labeled "orphans"? (To dig deeper, read "On Understanding Orphan Statistics" at [www.cafo.org/orphanstats](http://www.cafo.org/orphanstats)).
4. What alternatives should be pursued when the ideal of a permanent family is not immediately available? What are some ways that Christians globally and the local church can meet the needs of orphans that cannot currently be adopted?
5. STUCK focuses on the decline in international adoption since 2004. What are some of the reasons for these declines highlighted by the film? What other reasons are cited by foreign governments and international organizations to support reductions (and even elimination) of adoptions? Which reasons do you view as legitimate and which do you view as unacceptable?
6. When might a decline in international adoptions from a country indicate something good? (For example, if a country ended a policy that punished families having more than one child.)
7. Much of the cause of recent declines in international adoption is arguably the result of decisions by the governments of foreign "sending" countries. What should be the response of

the U.S. government to the decisions of foreign governments to restrict or prohibit international adoption? What should be the response of individual Christians?

8. As with most any good cause, there is potential for corruption to enter the adoption process. As Christians, what should our response be when there are unethical practices in international adoption? What are some practical steps we can take to guard against such practices?
9. When should a child in an orphanage be considered for adoption? When should efforts to return the child to their birth family take precedence over local or international adoption?
10. Try to imagine what it would feel like to be a dying parent in a hard-pressed part of the world. Under what conditions would you view the best option for your children to be: A program to help your relatives raise your child? An orphanage? Foster care? International adoption?
11. What next steps will you take after having viewed STUCK?

### **Praying for Change**

There are many ways that Christians can advocate for orphans. One of the greatest exercises of power and influence is available to every follower of Christ – *to pray*. Below are some specific ways you can pray for lasting change for orphans.

#### **For the orphans of the world, pray that:**

- Every child will experience the unfailing love of God in personal, tangible ways.
- Every child will know the love and provision of a nurturing, protective parent or caregiver.

#### **For those in positions of power and influence, pray that:**

- Leaders in the United States and around the world will make decisions that are truly in the best interest of orphans and vulnerable children and provide for their holistic needs.
- Leaders and staff in nonprofits and ministries will keep focus on the best interests of those who rely on their protection and care, and will have the resources to do their work fully.

#### **For those who are called to adopt a child, pray that:**

- They are able to find and build full, gracious support for the lifelong journey of adoption, particularly within their church community.
- They are able to discern the needs of the children in their care and have the tools and support needed to meet those needs.

#### **For followers of Christ everywhere, pray that:**

- We will work together to build a strong foundation of love and support for those who are laboring to meet the needs of the orphans and vulnerable children of this world.
- We hear God's call for how He can best use us to meet the needs of orphans near and far.