

Mystic



✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos and music listed (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Prepare a focal point with pictures of current news stories, and strips of paper with various world concerns, and advocacy organizations printed on them (e.g. human trafficking, poverty, war refugees, child soldiers, crime victims, mistreated prisoners, etc.; Bread for the World, Baptist Joint Committee, World Vision). Also include some blank strips of paper
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Explore

Have someone read Isaiah 62:1-7 out loud and show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: Advocacy for those who have no power or voice calls forth many things from us – our feelings, thoughts, decisions, actions, inactions.

Ask: What can you identify with in this following scene? Then show the Les Miserables scene where Javert tries to arrest Valjean, who advocates for his deceased friend's orphaned child, Cosette. Valjean is the only one who can make sure that this little girl will be raised and nurtured with love.

✓ Group Sharing

Invite group members to share about a time when someone advocated for them. Then ask the following questions to encourage discussion.

- Who are the people that need advocacy in our world?
- Who are the people in your life that need advocacy?
- What are some of the advocacy organizations you are aware of, or partner with?
- Add these people groups and advocacy organizations to the focal point by filling in the extra blank strips of paper. Then ask the following questions to continue to encourage discussion.
- What are your thoughts and feelings when you become aware of people who need advocacy? Do you tend to become overwhelmed by the need, or

empowered by the need to do something on their behalf?

- What does/has advocacy cost YOU personally?
- What do you need from God, in order to become an advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves?

✓ Reflection Time

Guide people's reflections by using the following statements:

- Invite God to be present in your reflections. Open yourself to God.
- Reflecting on the discussion, what one thought/feeling/question comes to the front of your mind?
- Talk with God about what has surfaced for you.
- What, if any sense, do you have of God's response to you?
- Is there anything you need from God? Share that need with God.
- What, if any, invitation do you sense from God with regard to advocating for those who need it? How do you respond to that invitation?
- Take some moments to rest in the reflection and time with God.

✓ Group Sharing

Invite people to share their reflections, then, close with prayer for each other, and for the people who need advocacy in our world.

By Joy Yee