

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE STORY OF ROSIE

What is the role of the family?

Jamaica at a Glance:

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| Capital City | Kingston |
| Population | 2.6 million (estimate for 1995) 26% 10-19 years old |
| Political Regime | Constitutional Monarchy |
| Geography | 4,411 Sq. miles, tropical, temperate at elevations |
| Religion | Christianity, some spiritualist- Pocomania, Rastafari |
| Languages | English, Creole |

What Things Cost:

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| chocolate bar | \$.42 |
| cola | \$.77 |
| music tape | \$5.61 |

Average yearly income per person \$1,144 US dollars

Average Life Expectancy 73.6 years

Figures from various sources including the World Resources Institute; The SBS World Guide.

BEFORE THE FILM:

The role of the family is examined in this segment of the TURNING 16 series.

Everyday more and more teenage girls are giving birth. Often the young woman must drop out of school, at least temporarily, to care for her infant. In many cases she cannot return to school at all; money to support herself and her baby takes precedence. The fathers frequently contribute neither time nor money. These factors raise a number of questions about sexuality, contraception and education and what we mean when we say family.

In the U.S., parents, religion and society offer often conflicting choices for sexual behavior— saying: no sex... safe sex... responsible parenting. Movies, television and advertising present sex in other ways. When you receive conflicting messages, how do you decide which option to choose? Do people from other countries and cultures deal with this conflict in the same way? Do they have the same influences that you do? Are their influences harder or easier to deal with than yours?

AFTER THE FILM:

Rosie is sixteen years old when she gives birth to J.R. It profoundly changed her life. Rosie's mom was also sixteen when she gave birth. Rosie's mom wanted her daughter to avoid the struggles she endured as a young mother. But by the end of the film, Rosie's fourteen year old sister is also pregnant. How and why did both girls ignore a fact they knew so well?

Besides the economic hardship, Jamaican society, churches and schools do not approve of pregnancy outside of marriage. Both girls knew that having children at such a young age would change their lives in undesirable ways, and yet they did not act responsibly.

Is this true of teens in any country? Are other factors involved? Rosie said she knew of the pill, but couldn't take them. She also knew about condoms. "It was the first time I was having sex. I got pregnant. I felt so guilty." In Jamaica abortions are illegal, private operations expensive, and many are opposed to abortion on moral grounds.

In some countries contraceptive choices are few and expensive, but teens in the U.S. have access to a variety of affordable birth control options and yet our rate of teen pregnancy remains high. Despite the teaching efforts of parents, educators and the media, do teens remain uneducated about birth control? And if they are educated and aware, what explains teen pregnancy?



Series of eight 26 minute programs

Youth and the Global Village (Introduction)

Do teens around the world hold similar views on issues such as marriage, culture and religion?

The Story of Rosie (Jamaica)

What is the role of the family?

The Story of Idrissa (Niger)

Are cultural values being threatened?

The Story of Eman (Egypt)

Do men and women share the same rights and freedoms?

The Story of Pintinho (Brazil)

Are sports a ticket to the future?

The Story of Puttinan (Thailand)

Are young people being exploited?

The Story of Sonam (India)

Do teens believe in God?

Youth and the Future (Conclusion)

How do teens feel about their future?

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