

## **After THE RACE: Discussion/Sharing Helps**

Directions: Print a copy of these leader helps so that you can use them in a post-performance setting following THE RACE: A Musical. Choose discussion/sharing prompts that help participants talk together, about both the subject and themselves.

### **General Prompts**

1. What struck you as particularly important for your life?
2. Which of the characters come close to people you know? What would they think of the message of the musical?
3. What, really, is “The Race?” How do you know that?
4. What’s the difference between “The Race” and “the rat race?” How do you know that?
5. What (important) subtleties did you hear/see/feel in the musical? Why are they important?
6. Besides the obvious messages of the musical, what others come to mind?
7. What does the musical invite you to do, personally? What do you want to do now? How will you do that?
8. What’s any of this have to do with “world hunger?”
9. What would you change – amend, add or subtract – in the musical? For what reason?
10. What in the musical will be hard to forget? Why?
11. With whom would you want to discuss this musical’s message or meaning? Why?
12. For what will you pray now?

### **Discussion and Sharing for Specific Scenes**

#### **Scene 1: The Morning Rush**

1. Talk about the usual mealtime routines or interactions in your home. How do they compare with what took place in this scene? How do you feel about that?
2. What does the song, “I’ve Gotta Run” reveal about Dave?
3. Talk about the “success platitudes” you hear in the script and in the song. What do they promise? What meaning do they have or lack?
4. Which Scripture passages jump into your mind as you recall this scene?

#### **Scene 2: Pump You Up**

1. Talk about times when you've experienced "your whole future" riding on one event or occurrence – e.g., Dave's presentation. What happened, and how did you react to it?
2. What are your impressions of the gym patrons? What seems familiar or unfamiliar?
3. How could you deepen a conversation like this?
4. What biblical story or parable connects with this scene?

### **Scene 3: In the Boardroom**

1. Talk about the "Mr. Biggins" and "Mr. Middlin" folks you've known in your years of work. What motivates them? What's inside of them, really? How do you get to know them or influence them?
2. In your experience or frame of reference, how true-to-life are the events that transpire in this scene?
3. From Jesus' viewpoint, what's true and what's not true in the song, "It's All Up to You"?
4. Compare the thoughts and words of Dave with the thoughts and words of other folks in this scene. Which connect with your experiences, positively and negatively?
5. What does Mr. Middlin mean when he says, "Funny thing is, it's already happening and you don't even know it."

### **Scene 4: Shop 'til You Drop**

1. Talk about your experiences with "veteran shoppers", or with shopaholics. What's going on in their/your mind when SALE pops up?
2. Some social critics have suggested that Tiffany – or her attitude – is typical of most teens today. How do you react to that statement?
3. In the song, "There's a Sale", which of Tiffany's words make sense to you? Which don't? What the difference between them?
4. In your own life, what's the difference between hoarding and finding a bargain?
5. Talk about how you shop, and what happens inside your soul as you engage in shopping.

### **Scene 5: Do You Remember**

1. In your life, who might Lily be?
2. Characterize the quality of Dave's conversation with Lily as compared to the other conversations in which he participates.
3. If your life was "simpler then", what changed so that it isn't as much that way now?
4. If your life was NOT "simpler then", what has or hasn't changed?

5. How would you describe a relationship based on simplicity?
6. Lily seems to know the Bible; what parts does she allude to?

### **Scene 6: Back in the Ballgame**

1. Talk about the undercurrent of any of the short speeches of the two gym patrons. What are they trying to say? Why's that important to Dave?
2. To what emotions or needs do the gym patrons appeal?
3. The platitudes abound once again. Name them and deflate them.
4. In your life, what's the difference between "enough" and "more"?
5. What does "you've earned it" mean to you?

### **Scene 7: Exciting News**

1. Talk about decisions that you've made that were dependent on the approval of others.
2. In the song, "What Do They Want from Me," Dave speaks about "hating the man I have become." Where do you see that in yourself?
3. When it comes to how you live your life, what words of Scripture "cut you like a knife"?
4. In the song, Dave prays to God, but what is his prayer really? How can you tell?
5. In this musical, who does Skip represent? If he wanted to say more, what would he say?

### **Scene 8: Taking the First Step**

1. What would be a "first step" for you to take – walking or dancing – in order to make your life simpler? With whom would you take that step?
2. In the musical, Dave pays a cost for his decision. What would it cost you to retool your life towards "simple"?
3. "God's care" comes up often in this scene. How would you hope God's care would show in your life, were you to make it more simple?
4. Will Lily and Dave become closer friends? Will Tiffany change? How do you feel about those questions?
5. Think about the irony of finishing the musical with a reprise of "I've Gotta Run." What might be the composer's reasons for the return of that song? Where will you run, if anywhere, when this time together is finished?