Drama Discussion Guide

This Discussion Guide for Dare 2 Share’s drama, Live It Over, is a tool to help discussion leaders facilitate dialogue with your group regarding their thoughts and feelings surrounding the drama. The Live It Over drama is designed to deeply impact your students by challenging them to think about life and death and faith in the context of the unthinkable—a school shooting scenario. Rest assured that by the time you get to the end of the drama, no one actually dies in this school shooting scenario. Still, the drama is intended to grab students’ attention by dramatically depicting a series of Jesus-centered conversations in the context of a life and death situation. Your students will get a glimpse into the urgency of evangelism and see examples of how Jesus-conversations might unfold with those who don’t know Him personally.

The goal of this resource is to provide an opportunity for you to allow the drama to have a maximum amount of impact with your students. Please be aware that this is a sensitive topic. Here are a couple suggestions for you to keep in mind as you discuss this issue with your students.

**Suggestion #1 - Don’t make guarantees.**
In our heart of hearts, we all want to promise and pledge as an absolute that a school shooting could never happen in our community…but it would be wrong to do that. No matter what policies and procedures are put in place, a nut job with a gun can still find a way to instigate violence. However…and this a BIG however…it is highly unlikely that your students will ever personally experience the tragedy of a school shooting. When you think how many students, in how many schools, in how many cities across the nation go to school in safety every day, you start to get the picture of how rare occurrences like these really are. Additionally, you may want to talk with your students about how the combined efforts of the school and public safety organizations are dedicated to their continued safety.

**Suggestion #2 - Do let them process.**
Some people might be hesitant to talk with students about school shootings for fear that it will only exacerbate the stress and concern they’re most likely already feeling on this topic. The fact is, the opposite is true. The cornucopia of emotions that come with this subject are best released through healthy discussion, otherwise they will work their way out in other more negative ways. Help your teens put labels on their emotional responses to the topic (stress, fear, sadness, etc.), then talk about ways to address each individual one. For example, if they are anxious, walk them through the whole concept of how God is still in control, so we need not be anxious about the future (see Matthew 6:25-34).
**Group Leader’s Discussion Guide for Live It Over**

Gather your group together and open in prayer. Then initiate some general discussion about the drama by asking a few of the following questions.

**ASK**

- How did the drama impact you?
- What are some of your thoughts and feelings surrounding the drama?
- What do you think was the main message of the drama?
- Did it take you awhile to figure out that the same scene was being replayed over and over with differing outcomes?
- Did the ending surprise you? Why or why not?
- If we’ve put our trust in Jesus and are leaning our life on Him, do we need to be consumed by fear that some potential future calamity like a school shooting, or a tragic car accident, or whatever, might crash into our life and change it dramatically? Why do you think that?

**EXPLAIN**

When we lean our life on Jesus and what He did for us, we can live in confidence that our personal relationship with Him will carry us through whatever might come our way in life—the joys AND tragedies, until He takes us home to be with Him forever in heaven.

While school shootings are tragic and highly disturbing, the main idea behind tonight’s drama should leave us even more unsettled. The main point of *Live It Over* was to get us thinking about how urgent and critical it is that everyone has an opportunity to hear and respond to the message of the gospel.

**READ** the following Scripture.

> “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” ([Romans 10:9, NKJV](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+10:9&version=NKJV)).

**ASK**

- Discuss the text message from God that Matt received throughout the drama. What do you think the meaning behind “Here. This. Now.” might be?
- What did you think of Naomi’s response to what Matt was saying about God?
- What are some of the reasons why we should take sharing the gospel with others seriously?

**READ** the following Scripture.

> ...And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” ([2 Corinthians 5:18b-20, NLT](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+5:18b-20&version=NLT)).

**ASK**

- Do you feel like you are “Christ’s ambassador”? Why or why not?
• Do agree or disagree that “Christians” sometimes do and say things that can make it hard for non-believers to stop, listen and give Jesus a closer look?
• Is being Christ’s ambassador a privilege, a responsibility, or both? Why do you think that?
• Do you have friends who don’t know Jesus personally and who need to hear about Him from you?

EXPLAIN
Although Live It Over was fictional, there actually is a very real urgency looming over us when it comes to both responding to and sharing Jesus’ gospel message. Each of us needs to make our own decision about putting our trust in Jesus. And each of us needs to make a decision about whether will we purposefully use the opportunities God gives us to share the light of the gospel with others.

Maybe you’re here tonight, and when you heard the gospel presented after the drama, you weren’t sure what to do with Jesus’ free offer of salvation through faith in Him. If there’s anyone here tonight who’s still wrestling with this decision, I want to give you another opportunity to run toward Jesus tonight, and accept His free gift of grace and forgiveness. I want to invite you to start this new relationship with God now based on this simple, yet astounding GOSPEL message...

God created us to be with Him. But...
Ours sins separate us from God. Even if we try to be good and do good things, these...
Sins cannot be removed by good deeds. But the great and hopeful news is that...
Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. So that...
Everyone who trusts in Him alone receives eternal life. And this...
Life starts now and lasts forever.

Now with every head bowed and every eye closed, if you’d like to put your trust in Christ, I encourage you to do business with God right now in the quietness of your own soul. (Pause.)

So if you’ve just made that decision to trust Christ, I invite you to silently join me in the following prayer. But just to be clear, let me explain something important here. Saying a “prayer” isn’t what opens the door to this life-transforming relationship with God—it’s what happens inside your heart and soul when you trust in Jesus that does that. But a prayer is one way for you to express your newfound faith in Christ. So if you’ve decided to do trust in Christ, I invite you to silently pray this prayer along with me:

Dear God, I know that my sins have broken my relationship with you and that nothing I could do could ever change that. But right now, I believe that Jesus died in my place and rose again from the dead. I trust in Him to forgive me for my sins. Through faith in Him, I am entering an eternal relationship with you. Thank you for this free gift! Amen.

And if anyone here still has questions about the message of the gospel or about what’s involved in trusting in Christ, I want to encourage you to grab me sometime tonight, and I’d be happy to talk with you more about this.

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