



## *Blessed Fruit of the Womb* Screening Guide

### Sample Screening Timeline - Full

#### **Introduction** (5-10 minutes)

- Host introduces self
- Introduction Talking Points (included below)

#### **Documentary** (26 minutes)

#### **Post film Discussion** (30 minutes - 1 hour)

- Audience impressions/questions
- Post Film Discussion Guide (included below)

#### **Supporting Materials**

- Get Involved Handout (included below)
- Why Family Planning Handout (included below)
- Why Guatemala Handout (included below)
- Guatemala Infographic Handout (included below)
- Resource Guide - Statistics and Information (coming soon - see website)
- About the Film Handout (coming soon - see website)
- Invitation Template (coming soon - see website)
- Flyers (coming soon - see website)

### Sample Screening Timeline - Condensed

#### **Introduction** (2-5 minutes)

- Host introduces self
- Introduction Talking Points (highlights only)

#### **Documentary** (26 minutes)

#### **Post film Discussion** (5 - 20 minutes)

- Audience impressions/questions
- Post Film Discussion Guide (highlights only)

#### **Supporting Materials**

- Get Involved Handout
- Why Family Planning Handout
- Why Guatemala Handout
- Guatemala Infographic Handout
- Resource Guide - Statistics and Information (coming soon)
- About the Film Handout (coming soon)
- Invitation Template (coming soon)
- Flyers (coming soon)

## Introduction Talking Points

**Note:** Any or all of the following information can be shared with the audience. Event hosts are also encouraged to share the reasons for their own interest in WINGS, Guatemala, and/or reproductive health and family planning.

### About WINGS

- WINGS is a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for Guatemalan families to improve their lives through family planning education and access to reproductive health services.
- WINGS provides **information and training** to women, men, young people, community leaders, local government, and partner organizations to change family planning attitudes and behaviors.
- WINGS offers **high-quality and accessible services**: we train volunteer community health workers to sell short-term family planning methods; coordinate a mobile medical unit to offer long-term methods and cervical cancer prevention services; and, offer referrals to partner organizations for permanent methods.

### About Guatemala

- **General:** Guatemala is a Central American country that faces major health and development challenges, including infant, child, and maternal mortality; malnutrition; poverty; and, gender and ethnic inequality.
- **Population:** Guatemala is the largest country in Central America and home to over 14 million people. With the highest fertility rate in Latin America, Guatemala will double its population to more than 28 million by 2050.
- **Ethnically Diverse:** Guatemala is approximately 40% indigenous (of Mayan descent) and 60% Ladino (of Spanish or mixed decent). The indigenous population is disproportionately affected by poverty, ill health, lack of education.
- **Poverty:** 53.7% of the population live below the poverty line (\$2 per day) and 13% live in extreme poverty (below \$1.25). For the indigenous population, the percentages are 73% (in poverty) and 28% (in extreme poverty).
- **Childhood malnutrition:** 49% of children under age five are chronically malnourished, one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world.
- **Income Inequality:** Guatemala ranks as the 13th most income unequal country in the world – 2% of the population own more than 70% of productive land.
- **Gender Inequality:** Guatemala has the highest gender equality gap in Latin America & the Caribbean. Out of 134 countries, Guatemala ranks a low 111th for equal educational, economic and social opportunities between men and women. This places Guatemala behind Nigeria, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, and more than 40 ranks behind neighboring countries Honduras and El Salvador.

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## About Blessed Fruit of the Womb

- Filmed primarily over two weeks in the fall of 2011 in communities near Lake Atitlan, the documentary sheds light on challenges WINGS and others face in delivering family planning education and reproductive health services in Guatemala.
- The film features:
  - **Ester:** A midwife, former WINGS' educator and current WINGS' volunteer Family Planning Promoter, and mother of two. (See About the Film Handout for full bio.)
  - **Evelyn:** A former WINGS' educator, current nutrition and food security outreach worker, and mother of two. She is pregnant with her second daughter in the film. (See About the Film Handout for full bio.)
  - **Gutiérrez Family:** The parents are opposed to the use of family planning methods and have had 10 children, of whom 4 are still alive. The eldest boy is no longer in school, and shines shoes to help earn money for the family.
  - **Barreno Family:** The parents have utilized family planning methods and have four children.
  - **Father Ricardo Vásquez:** Catholic priest who is opposed to family planning.
  - **Vicente Batz:** Baptist Pastor who supports family planning.
  - **Consuelo Esquivel:** Advocate for women's rights with REMUPAZ (Women's Peace Building Network).
  - **Mónica Díaz:** Child Health Monitor and Nutritionist with the Department of Health in Sololá.
- The film explores the challenges Evelin and Ester face on a day-to-day basis:
  - religious opposition
  - *machismo* (male dominant culture)
  - governmental opposition and indifference
  - lack of accurate information / prevalence of misinformation and myths
- The film also reveals some of the consequences of the lack of family planning education and services:
  - high fertility rates, including adolescent pregnancy rates
  - maternal and infant mortality
  - childhood malnutrition
  - poverty
  - lack of education, especially for girls
  - gender inequality
- WINGS hopes to share this film as widely as possible in public and private screenings, academic settings, film festivals, and beyond in order to bring attention to the ongoing fight for reproductive rights of Guatemalans, especially women.

## Post Film Discussion Guide

### General Questions

1. What were your overall impressions of the film?
2. What were some of the key messages you took away from the film?
3. What surprised you?
4. What did you learn? What do you want to learn more about after seeing the film?
5. Was there anything you didn't like about the film? Why?

### Health and Malnutrition

1. How did you see the consequences of family planning impact the health of the characters – especially the mothers and children?
2. How did the scene with Mónica examining children demonstrate the issue of malnutrition in Guatemala?
3. How is malnutrition different in Guatemala than how it is portrayed or seen in other countries, such as those in Africa?

### Religion

1. The Catholic Priest in the film described the beliefs of the Church regarding life and family planning as does the Baptist Pastor. How do these viewpoints, and religion more generally, impact the behavior and choices of the families that we meet in the film?
2. How do Evelyn and Ester reconcile their faith with their work?
3. How can organizations like WINGS respect both the religious beliefs of individuals and meet their needs in terms of reproductive rights?

### Men and Gender Inequality

1. How did you see the *machismo* and male dominant culture manifest itself in the families and in the conversations with characters in the film?
2. How can organizations like WINGS involve men and make them partners in protecting the reproductive rights of women?

### Government

1. The role of the government in reproductive rights decisions is an issue in many countries around the world. How does the political situation in Guatemala impact the reproductive choices of citizens, as shown in the film?
2. To what extent should the government intervene in reproductive health?
3. How should non-governmental organizations respond to government implemented policy?
4. How does an organization like WINGS balance direct service provision with advocacy for better government service provision?

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### **Education and Poverty**

1. In the film, we meet two families – the Gutierrez family, and the Barreno family. What were the differences between the two families?
2. How do you think family planning played a role in the development of these families? How do you see the other themes we have discussed influencing both families?

### **WINGS' Work**

1. What were some of the myths and misconceptions about family planning that were described by the characters? How can WINGS' educators and other third parties overcome rumor and misinformation that come from "trusted" sources like family and friends?
2. In the scene where Evelyn aggressively confronts a young man about his education and family background, did she go too far? What tactics are fair game in trying to get someone to change their mind?
3. In one scene, we meet a fisherman at Lake Atitlan, and he says that he wouldn't support his wife in using a family planning method. Should WINGS offer family planning methods to his wife, or other women who do not have the support of their husbands or families? Discuss the moral boundaries of providing family planning methods under these kinds of circumstances?