

A CONCERTO IS A CONVERSATION

EXPLORATION GUIDE

The W with John Priddy & Ben Proudfoot

1

When examined through the lens of his grandfather Horace Bowers' story, Kris' accomplishments take on new meaning. Kris Bowers' opportunities were hard won through the grit, determination and ingenuity of his grandfather.

How does an intergenerational perspective lend meaning to your life? What do you hope your legacy looks like? Can you attribute opportunities you've been given in your life to someone who's come before you?

2

Horace traveled thousands of miles across the United States to leave the Jim Crow South. However, he realized that racism would continue to be an obstacle for him, stating in the film, "in the South they tell you, in Los Angeles they show you." Horace overcame to create new opportunities for himself and his family.

How has this story inspired you to overcome obstacles you've faced? What can Horace's story teach us about how to respond to injustices perpetrated against ourselves and others?

3

In *The W*, Ben Proudfoot points out that "as young people it's a huge power trip to ignore your parents... but we'd be fools not to hear them out." Kris' conversation with Horace is an example of intergenerational humility. Kris recognizes his limited perspective and seeks to broaden it by learning from his grandfather's lived experiences.

Do you adequately value the wisdom of older and past generations? What hinders us from appreciating the wisdom of older/past generations? How might the concept of the "concerto" assist us in this?

4

Kris tells his grandfather that he struggles with imposter syndrome as a black composer in a classically white space. Horace encourages Kris to stop doubting himself, saying "Never think that you're not supposed to be there, 'cause you wouldn't be there if you wasn't supposed to be there."

Have you ever experienced self-doubt? How does it impact your decision making? Where do you find encouragement? How might Horace's statement shed light upon God's role in guiding each of our lives?