

# GOLDEN AGE

## EXPLORATION GUIDE

*The W* with John Priddy & Katherine Leary Alsdorf

1

*Golden Age* begins with Abe staring into a dark abyss saying, "It's a bad dream ... you live in a tunnel, it's dark and you can't get out of it ... but I found a way." Eventually, Abe emerges from the darkness, into the light. It seems he found meaning and joy by re-entering the workforce and acting as a mentor and leader to others.

**Think about Matthew 5:4. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Why do you think going back to work helped Abe heal from the trauma of his grandson's death? Have there been times in your life when work has been a healing place for you?**

2

Abe grew up in Bolivia, but moved when a parish priest noticed his potential and offered him the opportunity to live in the United States and receive an education. The trajectory of Abe's life was forever changed by the investment his community made in him. Since being offered this opportunity, Abe has lived his life providing for his family and serving others through his work.

3

How might we be able to better notice potential in individuals around us? What can you do to create opportunities for others that could impact communities and society over time?

A "golden age" in life is defined as an idyllic time of peace, prosperity and happiness, often used to refer to retirement. After Abe's grandson was born with cerebral palsy, Abe chose to retire early and essentially forgo his "golden age" to take care of him.

**How do you think Abe's time caring for his grandson shaped his view of what a true "golden age" is? What are some misconceptions people (or yourself) have about retirement? How does the film shape your viewpoint on the value of work that is unpaid, like a stay-at-home parent or Abe taking care of his grandson?**

4

In *The W*, John Priddy speaks about Baby Boomers' views of retirement, "We've had this message throughout our lives that there's going to be the good life, if you just work really hard." In the film, Abe decides to go back to work despite his previous plans of retiring.

5

**How does the Baby Boomer view of retirement help us to understand the significance of Abe's decision? Do you think retirement may look different for younger generations, given current trends in economics?**

"We get it wrong so often," John says, "work life, faith integration and desire for a shalom economy." Shalom means to return to the plan of God. Katherine Leary Alsdorf and John conclude that it is important to enjoy work because God created us for work.

**How does working to merely reach retirement or "the good life" fall short of God's vision for work? How can a Christian perspective on the integration of faith and work better inform our views on retirement? How does this all fit in with the development of a "shalom economy?"**