Go Back To Where You Came From

Episode Three

Teacher Notes

• Same montage opening with participant soundbytes to reintroduce them again.
• The VO provides a recap of last weeks experiences in Malaysia. The VO explains that tonight they will go deeper still into the refugee experience.
• There is a time-lapse opening of sunrise over Kakuma from an extreme longshot. This is to show both the size and isolation of the camp.
• VO: “There are over 9 million displaced people across Africa... there are scores of camps like this.”
• Roderick stands in the foodline and comments, “It’s very intimidating. There are cuts shots to men physically fighting in the food line. Raquel expresses, “I’m a bit terrified, it’s not my country so I’m not familiar with this.” Roderick says that “It’s every man, woman and child for himself in the food line.”
• VO exposition explains that the refugee food ration that must sustain them for two weeks. Raye says “I would like to see the weight of everything bumped up ... I can understand it, but that doesn’t mean that I have to like it.”
• The participants in Kenya are then moved to a different compound for their own safety.

Jordan

• Gleny, Darren and Adam are in Jordan. The VO tells the viewers that half a million refugees fled from Iraq after more than 100 000 civilians were killed in Iraq.
• The participants visit a hospital that treats the indiscriminate victims of these bombings. The Hospital is run by Medcin San Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders)
• At the hospital, Adam and Gleny are curious to know more and ask questions of the doctors and the patients. They both interact with the patients young and old.
• There is a montage of close up facial shots of the Iraqi patients, clearly showing their scars and deformations.
• It is an open day at the hospital, and Gleny and Adam involve themselves fully in the celebrations and the experience. Darren observes from the side.
• Adam: “It’s a pretty good feeling and atmosphere.”
• Gleny: “They’re so brave.”

Kenya

• VO explains that the Australians are on a mission to find Bahati and Maisara’s relatives, using the Red Cross Tracing Program.
• Raquel and Raye are excited about the possibility of meeting the relatives. When they find them, Bahati’s brother (Dao) is overjoyed to see them and to hear news from Australia.
• Bahati and his wife live with their six children in the compound. The participants also discover that Maisara’s sister lives with them too. There is absolute joy at this discovery, and Raquel tells her “Maisara misses you.”
• The participants share the news of Bahati and Maisara from Australia, this leads to discovery for their relatives in Kenya. Raquel asks Maisara’s sister “Do you plan to go to Australia if you can?” This is a shift in perspective for Raquel.
• The VO details Dao’s toryure, and the family are then shown a video message from Australia. There is a long silence afterward and the soundtrack is soft and reflective to heighten the viewer response to the heightened emotional state of the people of screen.
• Dao asks his daughters what they want to be. It is reminiscent of the Chin responses inn Malaysia, and equally as ironic.
• Dao tells the Australians, “If you touch hearts you are able to make a change.”
• Raye: “I think there are a lot of people out there who do not see what is happening. They look, but do not see.”

Jordan

• This section opens with a flashback of Wasmi in Sydney, explaining why he wanted his mother brought out to Australia.
• Gleny, Adam and Darren find Wasmi’s mother, who is being looked after by his nephew, Rasheed.
• Darren questions how Wasmi’s mother feels about him leaving on a boat and leaving his family behind. She replies that he had to do it to escape the danger, and that she doesn’t wish that he had stayed with her, Iraq is too dangerous.
• The scenes with Wasmi’s mother and nephew are very emotional, and this is shown through continuous close ups of their faces.
• Adam shows compassion towards their plight, while Darren insists on asking, “So it’s really not safe for him to go home?” Rasheed replies “Of course not.”
• Gleny: “It makes me feel a bit helpless.”
• Darren: “I don’t think I could leave my family behind…what have they done?”

Kenya

• Participants visit the medical centre where malnourished children are treated. The viewer is shown close up images of sick and helpless babies and children.
• There is an edit flashback to Raquel’s introduction: “I don’t like the colour of their skin.”
• VO: “Since the beginning, Raquel’s beliefs have been challenged.”
• Raquel’s epiphany moment: “I think you should give people a chance, and not judge a book by it’s cover...I’ll probably be more curious now.”
• Rod: “I’m just happy to hear that from Raquel.”
• Raquel: “We all have hearts, and I’m just a big softy.”
Jordan

- Rasheed skypes his wife and children, who have gained visas for resettlement in USA.
- Adam notices that the food that has been provided is excessive and Rasheed explains to him that it is especially for them, as guests. This is cultural discovery.
- VO: “Three million Iraqi’s, one in ten, have been displaced since the war in Iraq ten years ago. A war that Australia helped fight.”
- There is a de-brief with Dr Corlett and the Jordan participants. They all respond differently to their experience in Jordan.
- Darren: “It’s probably not the most ideal of situations...they’re living in what I would say is abject poverty. They are, however, safe.”
- Adam: “It’s a shithouse life here...they’re in no-mans land, they’ve got nothing...do the journey, get on the boat, there’s no hope here.”
- Gleny: “I’ve been deeply affected by these stories, and my life has been changed, and I don’t think everyone will walk away from this changed.”
- Participants are given the opportunity to go all the way back to Iraq. Although they are all nervous and afraid, they all agree to go.

Kenya

- Dr Corlett gives them the opportunity to go back to the Congo. Roderick and Raye agree to go, though Raquel is hesitant: “This is so emotional, this whole journey, and I’ve really had enough I think.”
- The final scenes of Raquel in Kenya show her dancing with and hugging the Masoudi family members. She says “It’s an eye opener for me, it’s an experience that I’m glad I had...I wouldn’t say I’m proud of myself, but I’m a little proud of myself, yeah.”
- Raye is very emotional when leaving the Masoudi’s, “It’s not fair that they stay here and we go.”
- The soundtrack as they leave is slow and reflective piano music, as Dao yells repeatedly, “Remember Kakuma!”
- Raye: “When I first came on this adventure, I was so close minded...and today, I would do anything to improve the life of my children, and I think if that meant getting on a boat I would do it...if it meant taking a risk, their whole life has been a risk since fleeing their home, what’s one more risk...that’s about all they’re doing in there is surviving, because it certainly isn’t living.”

Kuwait / Iraq

- Gleny: “It’s like being transported to another planet...nothing seems earthly.”
- Adam: “I’m just coming to the realisation that we are actually in Iraq, in Saddam’s palace.”
Congo

- Roderick and Raye go on this part of the journey, and they notice the enhanced security all around them.
- VO provides exposition that over 5 million people have been killed in this war, in a country of 70 million.
- When the participants are told that the aid organisations can only provide food for 15 days of each month, and that the civilians have to fend for themselves to survive the rest of the time, the Australians make a donation to help them out.
- The women sing and dance in celebration of their new supporters. Raye joins in the celebration, although Roderick feels awful when he finds out that the women are singing “No more rape, there will be no more rape.” As he feels that he is conjuring false hope for the women. Roderick is a realist, and his attitude is that the home country problems must be fixed as a means of solving the refugee crisis.

Iraq

- The participants enter a new world of dangerous possibilities as they travel through the streets of Bagdad in armoured US vehicles.
- During the briefing with the US two star General, Adam questions the security in Iraq as the Americans plan to leave. He discovers that attacks have decreased. He asks the general if he feels that it is safe for the refugees to return home, and the general responds that “The question of personal safety has to be answered by the individual.”
- Darren: “We can’t take care of everyone. We have a response to this problem, and that is that we have a UN agreed program of resettlement to deal with these people. Although their situation is pretty grim, they’re safe in places like Jordan and Malaysia, they’re living in abject poverty, maybe, but that’s a different situation than fleeing persecution. So I don’t have to shoulder the guilt of the world’s poverty problem.”
- Adam: “It’s definitely been a life changing journey. I don’t think I will be so selfish when it comes to my own little problems. There’s so much hurt and heartbreak in the world. The next wave of Iraqi’s coming on boat, or anyone for that reason, I won’t see them as illegal. That’s basically too harsh of a title, of a label, to give to someone fleeing persecution what we experienced and what we’ve lived in.”
- Gleny: “I have a different perception of the world. Going on a journey like this and seeing what we’ve seen makes you realise again what a lucky country we live in. To see some of the people that are just chasing that elusive dream of freedom, and a better life. We take all these things for granted, we take our freedom for granted.

Reunion

- VO: “After four weeks, the refugee experiment is finally over. Nothing like this has ever been conducted before.”
- Dr Corlett brings the experiement to a close and calls it unique, remarkable and a gutsy journey that has been tough physically and mentally.
• Raye: “Did I say that? Now I’d probably go over and invite them in for tea...Getting to know
people personally is a whole new concept. I now know why they are in the situation they’re in.”

• Darren: “I think I’ve shifted in some ways on this journey. More towards probably being more
compassionate towards refugees, and probably less compassionate towards boat people. (Dr
Corlett interjects: “90% of people who arrive by boat are found to be refugees.”) I’m not going
to call them queue jumpers anymore, probably system dodgers.”

• Gleny: “We’ve seen humans are capable of so much hideous stuff...so why wouldn’t one person
take the opportunity to jump on a boat and save their family? I just think that’s a decision that,
I would take that path if it was put before me and I thought there was hope at the end of that.”

• Roderick: “Ultimately, the problem is that of the source country, that’s where their freedom
was taken away.”

• Raquel: “I think it would be good if somehow you could fix their country up, if it came down to
the last resort, I’m not going to say no, like, I’ve been there and seen it, I’ve seen what they go
through, it’s right in front of your face, so it’s a bit hard to say no.”

• Adam: “People say it’s not good to let emotions get involved in decisions, but I think that’s life. I
think life is all built on emotions. So the emotions that I’ve felt over the past few weeks is just, I
think, human nature, and to feel for the families we lived with...and we just scraped the surface
of the whole issue.”

• Dr Corlett: “If there is one thing that we can all agree on, it’s that the refugee issue is complex,
and often an appreciation of that complexity is missing from public debate in Australia. I hope
that because of your experiences over the last 25 days, when you think about refugees and
asylum seekers, whether they arrive in Australia by boat or by plane, whether they are chosen
from overseas or live in limbo in camps and cities around the world, you might have in the front
of your mind the humanity of the people concerned, and their right to live free from the fear of
persecution. Your journey is now over.”