

A
Johnson & Johnson

SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION®

GIFTED HANDS:

The Ben Carson Story

BASED ON A TRUE STORY



WE KNOW DRAMA™

Dear Librarians and Church Leaders,

Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story, a JOHNSON & JOHNSON SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION® airing on TNT on February 7, 2009 at 8PM Eastern/7PM Central, is an inspirational true tale of family struggle, perseverance, and the relentless pursuit of a dream. This original television film about Ben Carson, an African-American boy who rose from poverty to become one of this country's premier neurosurgeons, presents a truly compelling story that will inspire your library patrons and church members to celebrate their own talents and overcome obstacles to follow their dreams.

To help you celebrate Black History Month with this unique film, TNT and JOHNSON & JOHNSON have developed this community viewers guide to *Gifted Hands*, which includes three reproducible handouts and a wall poster that you can use as the centerpiece of a library display or to organize a church discussion group. The handouts provide background on Dr. Ben Carson, a list of recommended books and films, and a variety of thought-provoking questions designed to enhance family viewing of the film. We hope that you will make copies of these handouts available on your take-one table or incorporate them into your Black History Month group programming. Also, included in this packet is a letter from Dr. Ben Carson. Please photocopy the letter and leave on your take-one table for your patrons or members.

Please feel free to share these materials with others in your community. Although the materials are copyrighted, you have permission to reproduce them for educational purposes. And please return the enclosed reply card to let us know your opinion of the program. We depend on your feedback to continue providing free programs.

Sincerely,



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ABOUT THE TELEVISION FILM

Based on the book, *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, written by Dr. Ben Carson with Cecil Murphey, the film, starring Cuba Gooding Jr., takes the audience on a journey through Ben Carson's life. We meet Ben as a struggling fifth grader in an inner-city Detroit school. Abandoned by his father at a young age and pushed by his mother to succeed despite racial prejudices, Ben's determination helps him overcome immeasurable challenges. Ben graduates third in his high school class and receives a scholarship to Yale University, where he discovers he has the dedication, intelligence, and a special gift to become a neurosurgeon. Again overcoming obstacles, Ben faces the biggest challenge of his life in 1987, separating two cranially-conjoined infants while dealing with a personal tragedy of his own.

For more information on the film *Gifted Hands*, visit www.tnt.tv/giftedhands.com.

Watch
*Gifted Hands:
The Ben Carson Story*,
premiering
February 7, 2009
at 8/7c on



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GIFTED HANDS

PRE-VIEWING AND POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION

Raised in inner-city Detroit by a mother with a third-grade education, Ben Carson lacked motivation. He had terrible grades. And a pathological temper threatened to put him in jail. But Sonya Carson convinced her son that he could make something of his life, even though everything around him said otherwise.

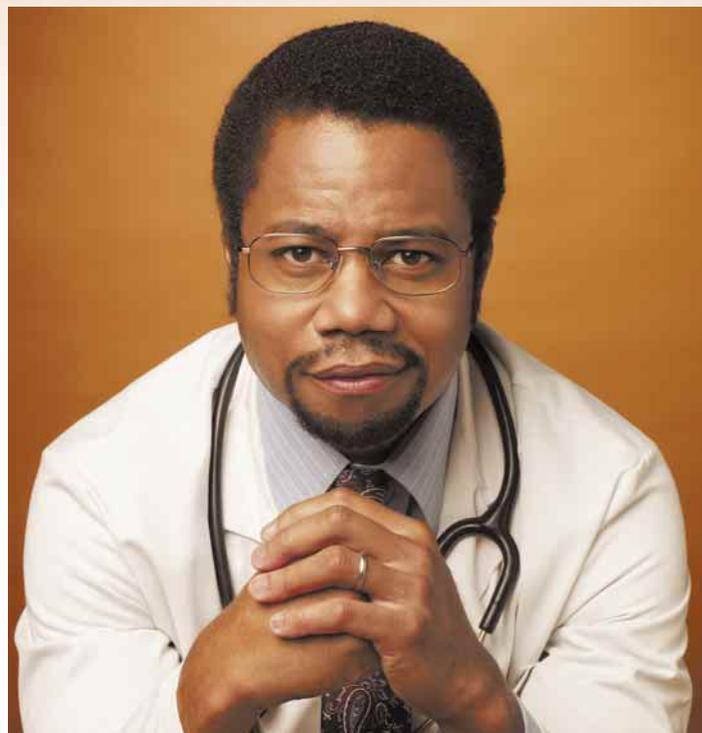
Trust in his faith, a relentless belief in his own capabilities, and sheer determination catapulted Ben from failing grades to the top of his class—and beyond—to a Yale scholarship...the University of Michigan Medical School...and finally, at age 33, the directorship of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Today, Dr. Ben Carson holds 20 honorary doctorates and is the possessor of a long string of honors and awards, including the Horatio Alger Award, induction into the "Great Blacks in Wax" Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, and an invitation as Keynote Speaker at the 1997 President's National Prayer Breakfast.

***Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, a JOHNSON & JOHNSON SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION® premiering February 7, 2009 at 8PM Eastern/7PM Central on TNT** during Black History Month, is the riveting story of one man's secret for success, tested against daunting odds and driven by an incredible mindset that dares to take risks. This inspiring autobiography, starring Cuba Gooding Jr., takes you into the operating room to witness surgeries that made headlines around the world—and into the private mind of a compassionate, spiritual physician who lives to help others.

View this film with a group of friends, family, or members of your church. Use the following pre-viewing and post-viewing questions to discuss the film.

PRE-VIEWING QUESTIONS

1. How do you imagine Dr. Ben Carson's socio-economic situation growing up? What struggles did he face? What did it take for him to overcome the obstacles in his path to success?
2. What attributes do you imagine are necessary for an African-American to succeed in the field of medicine? Are these attributes any different for a non-African-American?
3. Imagine that you are Ben Carson's mother, Sonya. How can a single, African-American cleaning woman



successfully encourage her children to make the most out of their lives?

4. Do you know people in your life who have defied the odds? What personal attributes make a person defy adversity rather than succumb to it?
5. How is your experience in America different from that of other ethnic groups?

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

1. Why did Sonya have such a profound impact on her sons? Would the two Carson boys have achieved success no matter who their mother was?
2. What was the turning point in Ben Carson's life that put him on the path to success?
3. What impact did Ben Carson's ability to save the conjoined twins have on his personal and family life?
4. Who, in your community, is making a positive personal impact on the lives of others, and how?
5. What talents do you have and how might you use them to impact another person's life?
6. Ben Carson defines THINK BIG as **T**alent, **H**onesty, **I**nsight, **B**e **N**ice, **K**nowledge, **B**ooks, **I**n-Depth Learning, and **G**od. What words do you live by?
7. What other Black Americans have inspired you and why?

WATCH GIFTED HANDS, A JOHNSON & JOHNSON SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION®, PREMIERING FEBRUARY 7, 2009 on TNT at 8PM EASTERN/7PM CENTRAL.

WHO INSPIRES YOU?

A JOHNSON & JOHNSON SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION®, *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, premiering February 7, 2009 at 8PM Eastern/7PM Central on TNT during Black History Month, is an inspirational true tale of family struggle, perseverance, and the relentless pursuit of a dream. This television film starring Cuba Gooding Jr. focuses on Dr. Ben Carson, who rose from a poor neighborhood in Detroit to become one of this country's premier neurosurgeons, and presents a truly compelling story that will move audiences and have them cheering.

One valuable lesson of Ben Carson's life is the importance of recognizing our special talents and how we can use them to help others. Take a moment to think about your special talents and attributes by answering these questions. Think about ways you can use your special gifts to make a difference in others' lives and your community.

1. Who made a difference in your life?
2. What were that person's special attributes? What obstacles did that person have to overcome?
3. What historical events influenced your life?
4. Who are the greatest influences of your generation versus today's generation? Discuss the pros and cons of each.
5. Which African Americans from the past 200 years had the most effect on you personally?
6. *Gifted Hands* shares the remarkable story of Dr. Ben Carson. What other films have affected your life and why?
7. Ben Carson's mother made reading a mandatory exercise in her sons' lives, ultimately contributing to their success. What books have made a difference in your life, and why?
8. In *Gifted Hands*, Dr. Ben Carson uses his talents to save two cranially-conjoined infants. What special talents and attributes do you use to better yourself and the lives of others?
9. How can you use your talents to make a bigger difference in the lives of others in your community?
10. Ben Carson defines THINK BIG as **T**alent, **H**onesty, **I**nsight, **B**e **N**ice, **K**nowledge, **B**ooks, **I**n-Depth Learning, and **G**od. Create your own definition of THINK BIG both for yourself and your community.



WATCH **GIFTED HANDS**, A JOHNSON & JOHNSON SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION®, PREMIERING FEBRUARY 7, 2009 on TNT at 8PM EASTERN/7PM CENTRAL.

TO LEARN MORE

A JOHNSON & JOHNSON SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION®, *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, premiering February 7, 2009 at 8PM Eastern/7PM Central on TNT during Black History Month, depicts the remarkable story of Ben Carson. In the television film, Ben Carson's mother, Sonya, pushed her son to become the best he could be through education. Carson recalled her saying over and over to him, "Bennie, if you can read, honey, you can learn just about anything you want to know. The doors of the world are open to people who can read."

To supplement your understanding of the man, and the challenges he faced, here is a list of recommended books and films celebrating Black History and Black Americans.



RECOMMENDED READING

Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story, by Ben Carson M.D. & Cecil Murphey
Take the Risk, by Ben Carson M.D. & Gregg Lewis
The Big Picture, by Ben Carson M.D. & Gregg Lewis
Think Big, by Ben Carson M.D. & Cecil Murphey

OTHER RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND FILMS

Books

Dare to Dream!: 25 Extraordinary Lives, by Sandra McLeod Humphrey
Days of Grace: A Memoir, by Arthur Ashe & Arnold Rampersad
Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance, by Barack Obama
For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf, by Ntozake Shange
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou
I May Not Get There with You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr., by Michael Eric Dyson
My American Journey: An Autobiography, by Colin Powell & Joseph Persico
Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63, by Taylor Branch
Rosa Parks: My Story, by Rosa Parks & Jim Haskins
Sojourner Truth: Ain't I A Woman?, by Patricia and Frederick McKissack
The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream, by Barack Obama
The Autobiography of Malcolm X, by Malcolm X
The Black Americans: A History in Their Own Words, 1619-1983, edited by Milton Melter (Thomas Y. Crowell)
The Confidante: Condoleezza Rice and the Creation of the Bush Legacy, by Glenn Kessler
Thurgood Marshall: Fighter for Justice, by Lewis H. Fenderson
Up Close: Oprah Winfrey, by Ilene Cooper
Why We Can't Wait, by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. & Jesse Jackson

Films

A Rage in Harlem
Ali
Amistad
Cadillac Records
Cotton Comes to Harlem
Do the Right Thing
Get on the Bus
Glory
Introducing Dorothy Dandridge
Lean On Me
Malcolm X
Ray
The Antwone Fisher Story
The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman
The Great White Hope
The Jackie Robinson Story

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