

# Hidden Homeless Discussion Guide

1. When you hear the term "homeless person" what image comes to mind? Is it a woman or child? If not, why do you think that is? Do you think that you know anyone that may be experiencing homelessness (Please respect the privacy of those people during your discussion by not sharing names)?
2. How did this report change or reinforce your ideas about what homelessness looks like?
3. Why do you think that the report's authors used the term "Hidden Homeless"?
4. How do you think homelessness affects children in early childhood (age 0-5)? What about school-aged kids?

## Challenges for Single Mothers



1. What are some challenges or barriers that make it more difficult for a mother with children to find (or keep) a job, as opposed to a single person? What if she is also homeless?
2. The report identifies child care, transportation, and employment as key components to sustainable housing for mothers with children. How are these three connected to one another? If you take one away, how are the other two pieces affected?
3. How is it possible for a person to be working full-time, but still be without a home?
4. What are the risks of "doubling up" with friends or family, living in motels, or living in a vehicle? What would scare you the most if you were in that situation?

# Reflection and discussion

1. Describe your routine during a specific time of day (ex: when you wake up in the morning, when you come home from school, or when you get ready for bed). How would that routine be different if you were living in a motel or in a car?
2. If you had to move into a car with your family, what belongings would you take with you? What would you have to leave behind? How would that feel?
3. What is one tangible thing you own and don't think you could live without? How important would it be to have that thing with you if you were homeless? How easy or difficult would it be to keep it with you?

# Group Activities

1. Try out the interactive poverty simulator at [playspent.org](http://playspent.org). Can your group make it through the month?
2. Get an intimate look at day-to-day life for homeless families by watching the *Hard Times Generation* features by 60 Minutes.
  - Homeless Kids: [www.bit.ly/HTGHomelessKids](http://www.bit.ly/HTGHomelessKids)
  - Families Living in Cars: [www.bit.ly/HTGLivingInCars](http://www.bit.ly/HTGLivingInCars)

# What can you do?

1. Brainstorm some ideas that your group (school, book club, church, or other organization) could help combat homelessness for women and children in Tarrant County.

To request a facilitator for your discussion, or to learn more about how you can support The Hidden Homeless in Tarrant County, please visit [www.transforminglives.org/hidden-homeless](http://www.transforminglives.org/hidden-homeless)



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