



Discussion Questions for Ron's Story

RCORP-ETC and Project Hope are producing digital stories that showcase how community members have been affected by opioid use disorder in rural East Tennessee. Digital stories have the power to transform communities, because they help people learn about and understand the experiences of others. To facilitate this, we have created discussion guides to accompany each of our digital stories. Discussing the events and themes of a digital story can improve understanding of the opioid epidemic and its effects, and ultimately reduce the stigma associated with opioid use disorder.

1. Let's start by recapping the video. How has Ron been impacted by the opioid epidemic?
2. Which scene from the video stuck with you the most?
3. At the beginning of Ron's video he talks about adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), or traumatic events that occur during childhood, such as violence and substance misuse. Ron suggests that if we could talk about ACEs and our mental health, opioid use disorder would not be as prevalent. Do you agree with Ron, why or why not?
4. Ron talks about how he had little to no support throughout his life, which made him feel worthless and alone. How can we help children or adults who have endured this struggle? What resources, if any, are available in your community for children and adults coping with ACEs?
5. Ron states that the antidote for this epidemic is love. Explain what he means by this and what we as a community can do to show love to people who are struggling with opioid use disorder.
6. Approximately two million people currently have opioid use disorder in the United States, and the East Tennessee region has been disproportionately affected by the opioid epidemic. How might you seek to offer support to someone who has been personally affected? What resources might you recommend?
7. Identify potential challenges that may arise when extending support to someone who has been affected by the opioid epidemic. How might you overcome these challenges while maintaining a comfortable and supportive environment?
8. How, if at all, did your opinion of the opioid epidemic change as you watched the video?
9. Are there any lingering questions from the video you are still thinking about?

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