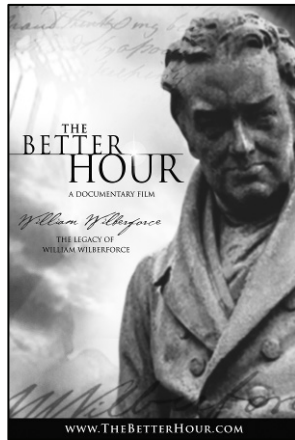


## Encouraging THE BETTER HOUR

Here are two easy steps to help anyone engage the culture as a in the spirit of William Wilberforce. It is built on hospitality—inviting friends and acquaintances to a movie and a discussion.

### Easy Step One—Have a Movie Night

Invite people to see a one hour film on William Wilberforce, who working with ten friends, changed England from a self-indulgent and decadent world to what became a more civilized Victorian England. It shows how moving from a merely a “professed Christian” to a “Christian in action” can make all the difference.



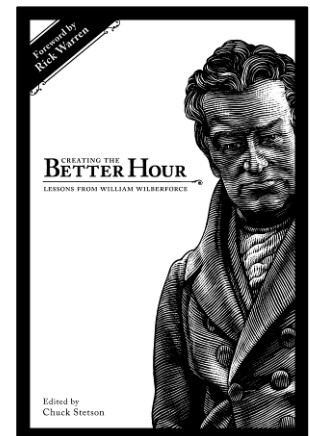
After viewing the film in the group, use the two discovery questions below to guide a discussion. These questions go beneath the surface and provide an “Ah, ha!” moment that one may remember all one’s life. For the best discussion, form groups of four to six for a more intimate and comfortable sharing of these questions:

**1. What kind of man would stand up for a great good in the face of incredible odds?** The first question digs beneath the person of William Wilberforce who stood up for abolition of slavery in front of his fellow members of Parliament where approximately 30 are for slavery and 30 are for abolition and the rest aren’t interested in the issue at all. What motivated him to action? In open discussion, the discovery happens. Wilberforce was an engaged Christian of great moral conviction who drew his strength from the Bible.

**2. What do you believe in strongly enough to work for it against great opposition?** The second question digs beneath the surface of each person in the discussion. What is so important to you that you would risk vilification by friends and neighbors to work for its accomplishment? What are the important works that need to be done to create a better world—a world that reflects the glory of its Creator? This question invites participants to open themselves to the world’s great physical, moral, emotional, and spiritual needs and to see themselves as agents in addressing those needs.

### Easy Step Two – Start a BETTER HOUR GATHERING to improve your community

To take this next step, join with a group of friends to change your world. Meet regularly. William Wilberforce was supported in his efforts by a group of neighbors in Clapham, England. Use a four-, six- or eight-week study of the book *Creating the Better Hour: Lessons from William Wilberforce* to get you started. The book was designed to nourish your response to a world that desperately needs your help. Along the way, you and your friends will engage the Gospel.



Resources are available at  
[www.thebetterhourgatherings.org](http://www.thebetterhourgatherings.org)

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### *Additional Discussion Questions*

- A. What obstacles did William Wilberforce meet in the first of his great objects—the abolition of the slave trade—and how did he overcome them? How are Wilberforce’s two great objects connected, and why are they both important.
- B. In learning of society in Wilberforce’s day, what elements of contemporary society came to mind? What problems? What attitudes? What needs?
- C. Which of society’s needs are most important to you? Why are they important? What are you currently doing to address those needs?
- D. If you were to recognize two great God-given objects that give your life meaning and purpose what would they be? How do you react to a growing awareness of God’s purpose for you in this world?
- E. How does looking at the life and legacy of William Wilberforce help you create a plan for engaging culture and society and their needs today? What tools, assets, techniques, resources, and friendships can you leverage to actively work for a better hour for humankind? How eager and committed are you to make a difference?

Let us know your thoughts at [info@betterhourgatherings.org](mailto:info@betterhourgatherings.org)