

Until 20

After every screening of UNTIL 20, the filmmakers have seen the film inspire, educate and move people in a number of meaningful ways.

Whether you are watching it at a public screening, at home or in another setting, we encourage you to follow the film with a conversation about James' courageous mission and how it can influence the way we live.

The following are some questions and topics to stimulate a discussion after the film.

General Questions

What did you learn about cancer that you didn't already know?

Until 20 was shot while the Ragan family was dealing with a major life crisis. What lessons can we learn from the way that James's parents managed the knowledge that he was going to die? How can families help each other cope without exacerbating the pain?

James was willing to accept comfort from others. He had many caregivers. What is the impact of a close family unit and a compassionate community of friends?

James wants childhood cancer to end with him. What are some ways that individuals and organizations can help achieve this goal?

During the filming of **Until 20** towards the end of his life James falls in love. In a short period of time James and Victoria learned to be supportive of each other while reconciling with his inevitable fate. What can we learn from this relationship that was still developing emotionally; yet coming to terms with near-certain death?

James had an innate ability to connect with other people by being an active listener and building relationships that were authentic and grounded. How can we nurture this type of empathetic behavior?

James had the maturity and poise to make critical choices about how he wanted to pursue his life and health. How can knowledge-of-self help us take ownership of the way we live our lives?

James says that he has been told that he gives people a new perspective, but people never ask him what gives him perspective on his own life. What do you think gives him perspective? What gives you perspective on your own life?

How would you live if you knew your life would end at 20?

Questions for Healthcare Practitioners

Which elements of James' story or specific moments in the film had an impact on you?

What are key ways healthcare professionals can cope with the loss of a patient?

What obstacles did James face during his treatment process?

Why did James qualify for some clinical trials and not others?

Currently, there are few available treatments for sarcoma or childhood cancers.

What makes sarcoma so challenging to treat?

How important is it for anyone facing a deadly disease to have caregivers with them as they go through treatment?

Identification of promising therapeutic drugs, laboratory research and clinical trials takes time and resources. How can more people help make a difference?

What are some ways to create incentives for pharmaceutical companies to support research for children with pediatric cancers?

Questions for Students

While receiving treatment for cancer James continued to attend classes and compete in sports. What are some ways that he managed the heightened stress in his life?

The opening sequence of the documentary shows James swimming to the bottom of the ocean. What do you think this represents?

How did cancer impact the people in James's life? What are some of the ways they coped? What are other ways to cope?

What are some ways you can help make a difference for kids with cancer?

Optimism encourages persistence in the face of obstacles. What can we learn from James's positive outlook on life?

James's friendships were broad and loyal. Why is it important to have quality friendships?

James seems to have endless gratitude. What in your life do you feel most grateful for?

Questions for Coaches and Athletes

James said that “you can hit three bad shots and still make par.” That’s how he lived his life. What does that mean? What sports metaphors reflect the way you live your life?

While fighting for his life James manages to rank as a top division one golfer. How does remaining in a competitive sport help James stay motivated and cope with having a deadly disease?

Who is in your personal support network? How do you nurture a support group of people who care about you?

James seems to know his own limitations. What can you learn from the way that he lived his life?

James had an abundance of love and affection in his life? How can these emotions be transformative?

James embraced challenges. Following his first operation James had to give up tennis and learn to play another sport. How can embracing difficult circumstances help us be stronger?

How do you measure a good life?