DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note to viewers: TRAVIS shows a community drawing together to support a child. Watch the show with other people; use the PBS broadcast and screenings of the video to draw your own community together, to learn about AIDS or to grow together as an intentional support community for someone who is HIV-positive.

After the broadcast or screening, read these questions aloud and give everybody time to answer them. TRAVIS raises strong emotions in viewers. Take the time to give people a chance to express their emotions and their opinions.

1. Many people don't know anyone with AIDS. If you are one of those people, how do you feel having watched TRAVIS? What did you learn?

2. If you know someone with HIV/AIDS, how has knowing about their disease affected the way you relate to them? Did TRAVIS give you any ideas about how to offer that person support?

3. Travis is an unlucky child because he was born with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. But he is also a lucky child, blessed with a grandmother who is devoted to his care, doctors who have been with him since he was two years old, and a community of family and neighbors who love him. He and his grandmother welcomed filmmaker Richard Kotuk into their home, and in welcoming Richard they welcome us. They are very poor, but rich in hospitality. Take time to talk together about how poor this family is—and how wealthy.

4. One of the most difficult things for people who are HIV positive to come to terms with is that the doctors still don't know much. What did Travis's doctor know? What didn't she know? What do you know about the prognosis for adults and children with AIDS in the United States and in other countries?

5. TRAVIS does not address the way AIDS is transmitted, only its effects on one child. What behaviors increase a person's risk for HIV infection? Does watching TRAVIS inspire you to change your behavior to avoid the risks of HIV? Does it inspire you to talk with your children, your church congregation, your neighbors about prevention measures like safe sex and needle exchange programs? It is difficult to discuss ways of conducting "wrong" behavior safely. What do you think are good ways to teach other people not to transmit HIV?

6. The film introduces us to many volunteers who provide loving support for children with HIV/AIDS in community centers, hospitals and camps. How is your community mobilized

to help children with HIV/AIDS? Did TRAVIS give you any ideas about health research, school programs, social work training, or other forms of community support? What services or information could Travis's mother have received to help prevent HIV transmission to her son? Is there anything you can do to prevent children from being born with HIV? Is there anything you can do to help the children who are HIV-positive?

7. HIV/AIDS is on the rise among African-Americans. What kind of effects and stigmas do you think might come about from the growing incidence of AIDS in this community? What do you think can be done to stem the tide?