

# Ragamuffin discussion guide

Discussion for a movie night: Enjoy the film. Afterwards, here are some discussion questions that might help you to engage with others on the topics from the film.

Enjoy the time engaging with the film, your faith and friends.

## Synopsis

The name Rich Mullins (*Michael Koch*) may not be familiar to modern, mainstream audiences, but his influence continues to impact the world. He was a groundbreaking musician who used his talent to communicate his Christian faith and wrote some of the greatest songs in contemporary Christian music. Even though his music has brought joy to millions of people around the world, he lived a tormented life. An artist who struggled with his faith, his place in the industry and in this modern world.

*Ragamuffin* is a personal and confronting journey into the life of Mullins and his short life. Growing up on an American farm, he never felt that he ever fit into the rural lifestyle. He clashed with his father throughout his younger years. The only place where he found solace was in music and his Christian faith. When he was eventually able to leave home after school, he found himself on the campus of the local Christian university. In the university atmosphere of the late 70's and early 80s, he was able to express his unique style of musicality. Also, he managed to find a community of people who accepted him and his eccentricities.

## Discussion points

1. This story might be different than your standard film about a Christian musician. How did it touch your life? What were the strengths and weaknesses of the movie?
2. *Ragamuffin* shows the inner turmoil of Rich Mullins, but did reveal that his struggles may have led to his musical inspiration. What influence does music have on your life?
3. Fathers have a direct impact on their children's lives and Rich to wrestle with this relationship continually. What thoughts did this bring up about your ties to your dad or guardian?

***'As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.'*** 103:13

4. Despite being a Christian, Mullins continually seemed to struggle with his faith. How did this element of the film challenge you or help the story? Did this change your view on Christianity?
5. Wouldn't life be better if we did not have trials?

***'And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.'*** 1 Peter 5:10



"I am a Christian, not because someone explained the nuts and bolts of Christianity, but because there were people willing to be nuts and bolts." — Rich Mullins