Dr. Verna Gibbs

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think it must have been like for the Gibbs family to move into an all-white neighborhood and be fearful for their safety? Why do you think that Dr. Gibbs’ father and mother chose to do that? Have you ever experienced discrimination?

2. Dr. Gibbs said that the role models for girls were more limited during the time that she grew up than for boys. Dr. Gibbs played with her brother’s chemistry set and people assumed that she wanted to become a doctor like her father but he was more interested in her brother’s future than hers. What do you think about that? Do you think that there are different expectations for girls than boys?

3. Do you think that it is more important for someone to believe in you or for you to believe in yourself to succeed? This answer will be different for everyone.

4. Given what you know about Dr. Gibbs’ early experiences from the video, why do you think she wanted to become a doctor? What do you want to be or do?

5. Dr. Gibbs says she takes a lot of pride in her family—Dr. Gibbs daughter is named after her mother. She says: "you have to know where you come from and where you are going." Can you answer that question for yourself?

6. Dr. Gibbs says that to be successful, children need to know how to play. Play is how you learn and build skill sets to work with others. Do you think that your parents and your school agree with that statement? Do you agree with that statement??

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