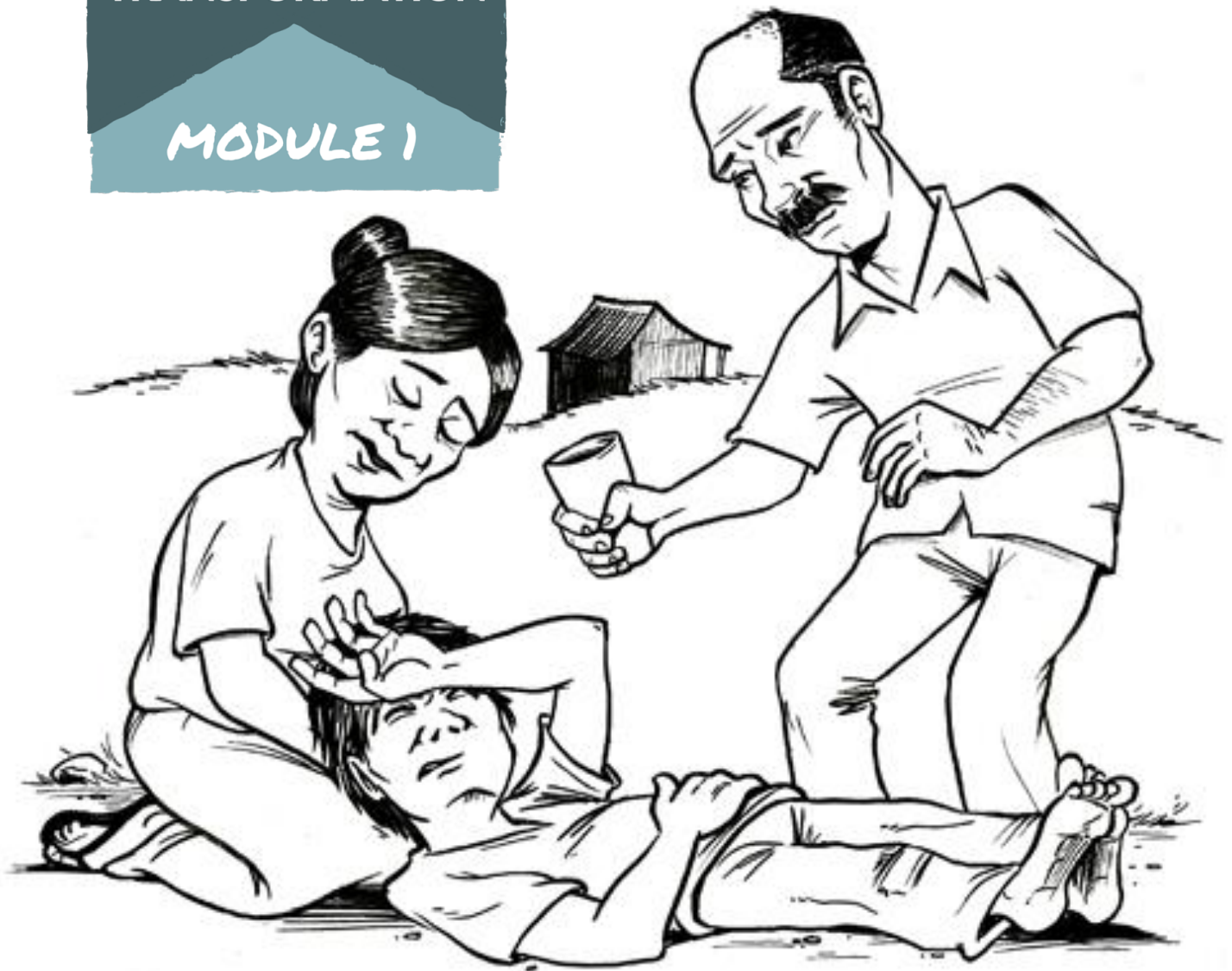


# TRUTH CENTERED TRANSFORMATION

## MODULE 1



# INTRODUCTION TO WHOLISTIC MINISTRY TEACHER

CHURCH

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In this first module, I have borrowed heavily from Bob and Darrow's materials, specifically "Development Ethic" by Darrow Miller and "Leadership Development Training Program" by Bob Moffitt. Some of the ideas for presenting the materials have also come from Mark Wilson. The River Crossing story in Lesson 8 is not my own, however it appears in so many materials that I have been unable to find the original author.

I am immensely grateful to those who I have been able to work with through the years as they studied and implemented these ideas. They are my true heroes. It's their application and feedback that made this possible, and their encouragement that kept me going on the many days when I wanted to give up. I still hold a special affection for the first team of trainers who sat in absolute confusion as I learnt how to teach and what to teach. They patiently tried to understand and even teach ideas that we later realized were just too complicated for their context. And yet God moved those communities out of poverty as well. An endless reminder that this never was about me or what I was doing, but about God and what He was doing. I am immeasurably touched that God would allow me to be part of this story and would use me despite all my weaknesses. To Him alone be the Glory.

Lastly, I want to thank my husband who gave up his own ministry to work together with me on this program. Without him none of this would have been possible. I know the many sacrifices you made through the years to make this happen. You are the wind beneath my wings and I love you.

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# Before You Get Started

## Preparing for Teaching a Lesson

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1. Read through the **Teacher's Guide** carefully, several times if possible. Highlight or make notes in the margin to remind yourself of important points.
2. Look at the **objectives** for each lesson so you know what students should learn through the lesson.
3. Read all **Scripture** passages ahead.
4. Check to see what **materials** are needed in each lesson and make sure you make copies of Student Guides (handouts) and create the visual aids that are used in the lesson.
5. Make sure you are familiar with each **activity** in the lesson (role plays, games, visual aids). You can practice it with your family or friends.
6. Take time to **pray** for God to prepare the students, for the students to hear what God wants them to hear and for Him to help you teach the materials. Remember that it is only through God's strength that we will see people changed.

## Helpful Hints for Effective Teaching

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1. Arrive early and set up your materials and the area you will be using.
2. Don't rush through the material. Plan enough time for discussion, activities and breaks. The goal is for people to have time to understand and be involved in the learning process. Move at a pace from topic to topic that makes sure everyone understands. Some modules may take an extra ½ or whole day.
3. Review often. At the beginning of each session have the class review all they have learned so far in the training module. Repetition helps people to remember what was learned.
4. Follow the Teacher's Guide and your preparation notes.
5. Make sure to include all four parts of each lesson.
  - a. Introduce the topic – activities will connect the topic to their previous experiences.
  - b. Give new information – there are many ways to share new information.
  - c. Give students something with what they have learned – activities allow them to better understand the information by working with others, creating something or using the new information in some way.
  - d. Connect the information to their life – this is the application step that helps the student decide specific ways they will apply new information they have learned in their lives. Learning without application doesn't produce change and isn't very useful.
6. Review your adult learning principles and other skills taught in the Facilitator Development training.
  - a. Give clear directions
  - b. Ask lots of open ended questions

- c. Thank people for their participation
  - d. Don't tell people what they can learn better by discovery
  - e. Build on what people already know and recognize their experience
  - f. Be patient and wait for people to respond
7. Encouraging everyone to be participating, sharing and contributing to the discussions. Find ways to gently encourage shy people to participate without embarrassing them.
  8. Pray throughout the day for God to reveal new things to you and the students.

## How to Use This Teacher's Guide

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1. **Objectives and Materials:** Each Lesson begins with this section.
  - a. **Objectives** - Students should be able to achieve these by the end of each lesson. It is good to ask yourself if these objectives were accomplished after you lead a lesson. Take time to review key ideas often to help them remember.
  - b. **Materials** - The specific materials needed are listed for each lesson, including Visual Aids and Student Handouts. You can choose to provide copies of the entire Student Guide to each participant, or make the minimal number of copies as suggested in each lesson. We also recommend having poster paper, a whiteboard, or a chalkboard to use with the large group.
2. **Teacher Instructions:** There are special instructions in the lesson to help you lead the training well. These are not meant to be shared with the students. Read these ahead so you are prepared to lead discussions and activities. Some questions will also have italicized answers to help you as a facilitator know what to draw out of the students. These are not the only good answers, just some good answers.
3. **Managing Timeframes and Flow:** Time frames are not included for each lesson.
  - a. Take as much time as is needed to help people learn the ideas in the lesson. It is more valuable to be concerned about what people are learning than with completing the lesson in a set time frame.
  - b. Remember to leave time for facilitators to start off with devotions, share testimonies, discuss any problems they are having, and pray together.

# Lesson 1: The Whole Story

## Objectives

1. Discover God's plan is not just to see lives saved but also to see the restoration of the three relationships that were broken in the fall.
2. Learn the whole story of the Bible: The Creation, The Fall, The Mission, The End of the Story

## Main idea

1. God's plan is not just to see lives saved but also to see the restoration of the three

## Materials

1. Visual Aids –
  - a. 1.1 Three Relationships (Four pictures: Creation, The Fall, Restoration, The Return)
2. Student Guide:
  - a. 1.1 The Whole Story Discussion Guide (one copy per group if using small groups)
  - b. 1.2 Role Play of Adam and Eve (2 copies)

## Introduction

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### DISCUSS AS A LARGE GROUP

Why did Jesus die?

**Instructions:** Encourage participants to share their ideas so that it sets the tone for the class that you want their participation and you will affirm their ideas. Accept all answers at this point. Don't emphasize any answer as "the right" answer.

We usually say that Jesus came just to save us from our sins. This is true, but He came to do so much more than that. His death on the cross is only one part of the whole story. To really understand the message of the Bible, we need to understand the whole story from beginning to end.

## The Creation - The Beginning (1.1 Discussion Guide)

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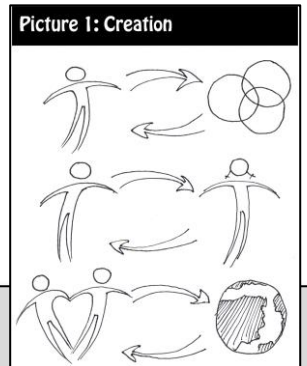
### DISCUSS AS A LARGE GROUP OR AS A SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY



**Instructions:** If you prefer, this can be done as a small group activity. Use 1.1 Discussion Guide for each group. If the participants are not familiar with Genesis 1-2, then use small groups and have them read Genesis 1 & 2 and discuss the following questions.

Based on what you already know about how God created the world how would you answer these questions?

- What was the world like in the very beginning in the Garden of Eden?
- What was the relationship like between Adam and God?
- What was the relationship like between Adam and Eve? Do you think they argued much?
- What was the relationship like between Adam and Creation? Did Adam have all that he needed? Did he have enough food?



**Instructions:** Show Picture 1: Creation and help students to see that in the beginning before the fall each of these three relationships were perfect.

## The Fall (1.2 Role Play)

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Read Genesis 3:1-20

### ROLE PLAY

**Instructions:** Ask two people to do the following role play. Give the two volunteers the Handout 1.2

#### **“A Conversation Between Adam and Eve”**

Adam: (Gardening) Eve, working in the garden sure got hard after we upset God by eating that fruit!

Eve: Yea, and our boys aren't getting along well anymore either. They argue and hit each other all the time. I hope it doesn't get any worse! And these stupid fig leaves I have to wear - they're so ugly!

Adam: (Arguing) Well, we can't afford to buy new clothes, so don't complain!  
(Pause) I miss the old days, when God used to walk with us and talk with us. Now He's sorry we're even around. And remember how the animals used to obey us? Now they run scared of us!

Eve: Yeah, or try to bite us! Ugh... I hate snakes! I can't believe I took advice from a snake! This whole mess is all the snake's fault!

Adam: No, it's all your fault! You never do the right thing! Why would I take advice from a person who took advice from a snake?

Eve: Well, don't blame me. That's your fault! (Stopping, sadly) I'm sorry - it doesn't help to yell. Adam, do you think things will ever be like they used to be?

Adam: I don't know - only God could fix this mess!

Eve: Oh, no— what now? (Yelling, running out) Stop fighting you two boys! Stop it right now. Do you hear me? I'm going to tell your father, and he's not going to be happy!

Adam: (Returning to garden, sighing) Work, work, work, work, work, work,...

### LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

From the role play and what you read in the bible, what are some of the problems that people now face as a result of the fall?

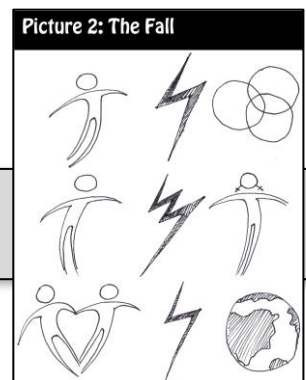
**Using 1.1 Discussion Guide:**

- Read Genesis 3:8,10 - What happened during the fall to man's relationship with God?
- Read Genesis 3:12 - What happened during the fall to man's relationship with each other?
- Read Genesis 3:15 - What happened during the fall to man's relationship with creation?

In the fall, evil entered the world; not just moral evil, but physical evil as well. Before the fall, there was enough food and there were no earthquakes, no floods, no droughts. As a result of the fall, we now have all these things.

The fall damaged all three of the relationships.

**Instructions:** Show Picture 2: The Fall and help students to see that The Fall damaged each of these relationships.



## The Mission

The next stage of the story between God and His creation is found between the account of the fall and the end of the Old Testament.

**Instructions:** Show the class the large section you are referring to in the bible.

This is the stage where God is seeking His people. He has a desire to restore what was broken.

**ABRAHAM** - Read Genesis 12:1-3. In this section God raises up Abraham and blesses him. Why does he bless Abraham? (God wants to bless the nations.) In this one passage, we see God's plan to save the whole world. Through the church He wants to bring blessing to the nations.

**Instructions:** If there are questions about the role of the law, you can also read Galatians 3:16-17,19, 24. This passage explains the purpose of the law and how the law points to Christ.

**MOSES** – God gave the world the 10 commandments so that we could know how to restore the broken relationships.

- Does the law just cover spiritual things or does it cover our relationships with each other and nature?

**Instructions:** Explain that the first four commandments restore our relationship with God but the last six restore which relationship? (our relationship with each other). The whole law covers our relationship with God (Ex 21:3), our relationship with each other (e.g. Ex 21:12), and also our relationship with creation (Ex 23:10-12). There are specific laws to help people stay healthy (e.g. Lev 13) and show how to treat each other (e.g. Ex 23:1-9). God doesn't just care about spiritual things. He cares about all aspects of our life. That is why he created laws for every area that was broken by sin.

Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14.

- What does God say will be the consequences if we obey these commands?
- Are the blessings that God promises only for spiritual things or are they blessings for their physical life as well?

God raised up kings and prophets, but again and again Israel suffered through poverty and war because they turned their backs on God.

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14

- Who does God call on to humble themselves and pray? (Not all people, but all His people—today the Christians.)
- What did God say would happen if they were obedient? (God will heal our land.) This is still true today. This is so much more than just seeing lives saved. This talks about the fact that God will bring healing to all three of the relationships.

## The Cross

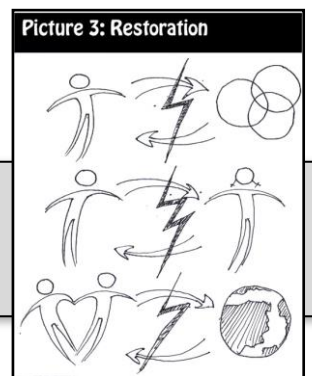
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This is not only the most wonderful part of the story, but also the most important part. In most religions, people are required to sacrifice in order to please the gods. In Christianity, God so loved mankind that He sent His son to die for them.

Read Colossians 1:19-20. Why does Jesus die?

- *The reconciliation of all the relationships.*

**Instructions:** Show Picture 3: Restoration, and explain to the class that God came to reconcile everything that was broken in the fall. However, everything will not be finally perfect until the end of the story.



Jesus left us with the great commission. We are responsible to not only see people become Christians, but also to disciple nations. Discipling nations means helping the nation to follow God's intentions in all the areas that He has come to reconcile.

## The Return

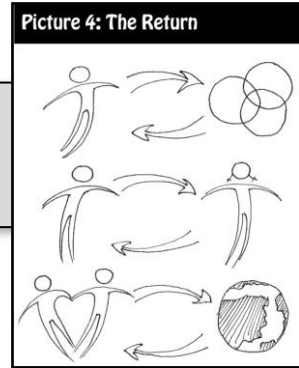
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### LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Revelation 21:1-7

- At the end, what is man's relationship with God going to be like?
- What is man's relationship with each other going to be like?
- What is man's relationship with nature going to be like? Will we have enough to eat? Will we ever be sick?

**Instructions:** Show Picture 4: The Return, and help students to explain that when God returns all of our relationships will be completely restored to how God intended them to be in the beginning.



## Conclusion

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This is the whole story—the wonderful story from beginning to end of how God created a perfect world. Of how sin entered that world and destroyed everything. Of how God loved us so much that He sent His son to restore relationships that were broken in the fall. Of how God will one day come again and make all things new.

God loves you so much. He sent His son to die that you may have a relationship with Him, and that you might be able to have good relationships with each other and with creation.

**Instructions:** To confirm understanding, show each Picture as you share this conclusion and invite the participants to say each title with you as you show the picture to increase their ability to remember the whole story.

# Lesson 2: Humans Are Important to God

## Objectives

1. Understand people are made in the image of God.
2. Discover all people have value because they are made in the image of God and Jesus died for them.
3. Reflect on if God loves us enough to send His son to die for us, then we should also value and treat other people well.

## Main Idea

1.All people are made in the image of God and they are important and valuable, we need to treat everyone as Gods precious creation especially those we look down on

## Materials

1. Student Guide:
  - a. 2.1 Discussion Guide (1 copy per group)

## Introduction

---

### LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

- What are the beliefs in your culture about where humans have come from?
- What are the consequences of these beliefs? If a person believes these things, would they think that people are very important or not?

In India, there was a woman, Mother Teresa, who set up homes to care for people who were dying on the streets so that they might die with dignity. Many people criticized her, saying that there were already too many people in India so why did she help those who were dying already. What do you think? Was this a worthwhile ministry or not?



## **Made in the Image of God (2.1 Discussion Guide)**

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### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Read Genesis 1:26-27

**Instructions:** Using 2:1 Discussion Guide instruct each group to read Genesis 1:26-27. After giving time to discuss the questions, either provide a summary to the whole group or move on to the next verses.

- How are people different from the rest of creation? What did God use as His model for humans?
- What are some of the characteristics of God that can be found in man? Identify as many as possible.

Read Psalm 139:13-16

- What does this verse tell us about the importance of humans?
- Do you think that this verse only applies to some people or all people?

God designed us, we are carefully made, and He has written all the days of our lives in a book. We did not just happen, but God made each person.

### **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

Read John 3:16

- What did God do to restore the world?
- Did God die for us because we were good? (If they are unsure look at Romans 5:8.)
- If God was willing to send His son to die for people, then how important does He think people are?



- What does this mean for the way that we treat people?

**Summarize:** In these verses, we can see that God obviously thinks people are very important. He made us in His image—each of us are carefully created and knitted together in our mother’s womb. He cares so much for people that He sent His son to die for them.

Think again about Mother Teresa’s work in India.

- Can these ideas help us to understand her work better?
- Why do you think that she would care for dying people?

When a famous reporter once asked her why she cared for them, she quoted from Matthew 25:31-46—the story of the sheep and the goats. In this passage, Jesus condemns those on His left saying, “when I was hungry you did not feed me, when I was thirsty you did not give me drink.” When they replied they had never seen Jesus hungry or thirsty, He said “whatever you did not do for the least of these people you did not do for me.” Mother Teresa explained that serving the people who are dying on the streets of India was the same as serving Jesus.

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

Each one of us is very valuable to God. So is every person in your community. Take time to think quietly whether you treat the people in your community as if they are precious to God.

## **Case Study: The Early Church**

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### **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

The Christians in the early church understood that people are important. At that time, the people believed that the gods fought each other for superiority and demanded humans make sacrifices to avoid punishment of the gods. The Christians understood that the true God was different. He had sacrificed for humans, sending His only beloved son to die for them (John 3:16). This belief meant that every single human was of great importance and value. This understanding of God’s incredible love for His world and mankind led the early church to oppose common practices such as abortion

and infanticide. At that time, if a baby girl was born, it would often be discarded in the streets. However, the Christians understood that every life—handicapped, unborn, male or female, slave or nobleman—was extremely valuable to God. They would rescue female babies from the streets and raise them as if they were their own.

The early church also believed that since God demonstrated His love by sacrificing His life on our behalf, then it was their duty to sacrificially serve others as well. The followers of Jesus understood they were to be compassionate and merciful to all people in the same way God was compassionate and merciful to them.

During that time, a cholera epidemic broke out. If you give water to someone with cholera, the chance they will survive is reasonably high. Without water, they will die. However, cholera is extremely contagious. Because the Romans feared getting the illness, as soon as they saw a person had the disease, they would throw them out into the streets to die rather than giving them water. Human life was not important to them. The Christians, however, were different. In fact, they would go to those that had cholera and bring them water and nurse them. They believed in sacrificial service and mercy. Many died, but through their love, the number of Christians grew very rapidly.

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

Take time to think about this story quietly to yourself

Ask God to help you see how you treat others. Do you treat them as if God thinks they are so important that He would die for them? Do you only treat some people well and other people not so well? Ask God to forgive you where you have not treated people in a way that pleases Him. Ask Him to show you how He sees people.

### **SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION**

- Who are some of the people who are typically undervalued?
- What are some ways that we can demonstrate to people that they are important to God?

# Lesson 3: Love God & Love Our Neighbor

## Objectives

1. Understand God has called us to love our neighbor.
2. Recognize who our neighbor is.
3. Identify ways we can love our neighbor.

## Main idea

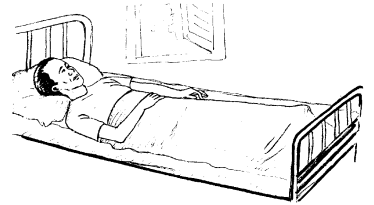
1. God has called us to love him by loving our neighbor through tangible actions.

## Materials

1. Student Guide:
  - a. 3.1: The Evangelist Role Play (3 copies)
  - b. 3.2 Discussion Guide (one copy per group)

## Introduction – The Evangelist Role Play (3.1 Role Play)

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### ROLE PLAY

**Instructions:** Select three members of the group to participate in the following role play using 3.1 Role Play.

**Narrator's Introduction:** Christians sometimes have what we call a “narrow view of the Gospel.” They understand that accepting Jesus is a life-and-death decision, but they don’t understand something else. When they are blind to their neighbor’s needs, their message is actually lost. ... Today, we’ll visit a very poor home. The only resident, a poor sick person (PSP) is ill and in bed. A visitor, a Christian evangelist (EV) on a door-to-door ministry campaign, has just arrived.

**EV:** Hello, hello! Anyone home? May I come in? (Enters)

**PSP:** (Weakly) In here...

**EV:** Hi. I’m \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ Church. I just came today to invite everyone to our church. The Lord has been blessing us with a powerful revival. You won’t want to miss it.

**PSP:** (Groans, speaks haltingly) Can’t come...can’t get out of bed... too sick to move... lost my job... no money for medicine... or food... or rent...

**EV:** Those are big problems, but I know someone who has the answer to all of life's problems. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?

**PSP:** (Weakly) My family and friends left me when I got sick and lost my job... Could anyone from your church help me? Please? . .

**EV:** The best help you could get is found right here in this little tract. It explains God's plan for your life. You know, it isn't His will that you're laying here! Take this, read it, pray the sinner's prayer, and believe!

**PSP:** (Weaker) Can't... too weak... (Stops talking, lies motionless.)

**EV:** (Checks pulse) Still alive! Praise God, I got here in time to witness! I'll leave the tract. I'd better get going so I can minister to other lost souls. (Talks loudly in PSP's ear) We'll pray for you. Remember, Jesus is the answer (Leaves)

**PSP:** (Watches him leave, groans) Ohhhhhhhhhhh.....

(Do nothing else – or whatever seems appropriate)

### **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

- What happened in this role play?
- Have you ever seen or known of people who shared the gospel like this?
- How successful was it in the long term?
- How does this method of evangelism compare with the way that Jesus ministered?

The Scripture is clear that God is concerned about hurting people—and we must be also. One of the best “clues” to help us understand God’s heart for people is found in the commands of Jesus. Within these commands, we see the summary (“irreducible minimum”) of the Gospel. Its emphasis is not only clear, but surprising.

## **The Great Commandment (3.2 Discussion Guide)**

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### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Using 3.2 Discussion Guide, read the following verses and answer the questions in small groups:

Matthew 22:36-40

Mark 12:28-31,33

Luke 10:27

Matthew 7:12

Romans 13:9

Galatians 5:14

## **REPORT BACK**

**Instructions:** After groups have had enough time to read the verses and discuss the questions, have the small groups report back to the large group and share the answers to each of these questions and make sure they cover the points above. Allow the students to think of their own answers.

What are the similarities and differences in these six passages?

- *They all say “love your neighbor”*
- *Only half mention loving God*

What does Jesus say is the greater of the two commandments?

- *Love God*

When the Law and the Prophets are summarized by only one of the Great Commandments, which is it?

- *Love your neighbor*

Why do you think Jesus chose to summarize the Law and the Prophets using this command?

- *If they don’t conclude that it is because we demonstrate our love for God through our actions, then return to this question at the end of this lesson.*

## **Loving Our Neighbor**

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### **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

Read | John 3:17, | John 5:3, James 1:27

What is the relationship between God’s love and our response to people’s needs?

- *If we love God then we will demonstrate that by loving our neighbor. If we say that we love God but do not love our neighbor, then it shows that we don’t truly love God.*

Is it possible to share the love of God without helping people’s needs?

- *No*

Are we disciples of Jesus if we are not ministering to the social and physical—as well as the spiritual—needs of man?

- *No. If we look at the parable of the sheep and the goats, we are clearly divided by what we do and do not do. In that were hungry. They were told to give them food. Jesus clearly shows in this parable that he expects us to care for the needs of those around us if we are truly His followers.*

## The Cross

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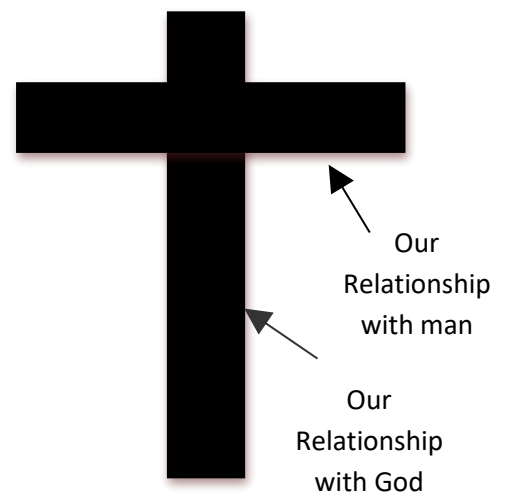
**Instructions:** Draw a picture of the cross on the board as shown.

**Explain to the group:**

This diagram is designed to help us remember this principle.

The upward line represents our relationship with God. It is the biggest line.

The horizontal line represents our relationship with others. The horizontal line is supported by the vertical line. Without the vertical line, the horizontal line would be in the dirt. This is true not only for this picture but also for our lives. We need God to help us have good relationships.



## Who is your Neighbor?

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**Instructions:** Read the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) while people in the class act it out. Ask one person to be each of the people in the story.

Seven people are needed to assist in this story illustration: 1 man, 2 robbers, 1 priest, 1 Levite, 1 Samaritan, 1 innkeeper.

**Introduction:** This is a story that Jesus told someone who wanted to know how to inherit eternal life, that is, how to be a Christian. He said two things were required—that we love God and that we love

our neighbor. The person then asked who his neighbor was and Jesus replied with the following story.

### **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Did the Good Samaritan know the person on the ground?
- What was the Good Samaritan's reaction to that person? How was it different from others?
- How did the Good Samaritan show love to his neighbor? Did he do just enough or more than necessary?
- What does this story teach us about whom our neighbor is?
- How does this story teach us about how we should show love to our neighbor?

### **Application**

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Think about the people who you see often. What is one thing that you can do for someone else?

# Lesson 4: Luke 2:52

## Objectives

1. Understand we need to grow in four areas—physical, spiritual, social, and mental.
2. Recognize we don't need to be rich to accomplish what God has for us.
3. Think about how to help others grow in each of the four areas.
4. Make a plan to help themselves, their communities, and someone in their church grow in one of the four areas.

## Main idea

1. We need to grow in four areas- Physically, Spiritually, Socially and mentally to help our families, communities to grow in four areas as well.

## Materials

1. Student Guide:
  - a. 4.1 Discussion Guide (one per group)
  - b. 4.2 Growth Chart (one per student)
2. Small pieces of paper that can be taped or placed on a poster or whiteboard



## Introduction

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### LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION – 5 mins

- What does a child need to grow between the ages of 0 and 18?

**Instructions:** Write their answers on the whiteboard or have them write them on small pieces of paper and If they are missing examples from any of the four areas (see below), then prompt them by giving an example. Example: Social area: Do you think this person would need a family or someone to love them?



## Luke 2:52

Read Luke 2:52: “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man”

What four ways did Jesus grow? What common terms describe these four kinds of growth? (10mins)

- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| • Wisdom            | Wisdom    |
| • Stature           | Physical  |
| • In favor with God | Spiritual |
| • In favor with man | Social    |

**Instructions:** Write the four common terms on a poster or whiteboard. Take the cards and make piles/groups or point at the list made in the introduction and show how they fit into each of these areas.

Like Jesus, we need to grow in these four areas. We can use this as a model to think about the way people need to develop

We don't need a lot to develop in the four areas

## Jesus Growth (4.1 Discussion Guide)

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

**Instructions:** Using 4.1 Discussion Guide, give groups time to discuss all six questions and then review answers to these questions as a large group to highlight the ideas below for each question.

### REPORT BACK

Follow up Large Group Summary using the 4:1 Discussion Guide:

1. Did Jesus' growth happen immediately, or was it a process over time?
  - *Jesus' growth was a process over time*
2. What were the physical/material/social living conditions in which Jesus grew? (Did He go to university? Did He have electricity at His house? Did He have enough food? Could He read and write? Did He have loving parents?)
  - *Jesus grew up in a poor family. They had to give an offering of two pigeons. (See Luke 2:24 and Lev 12:8.)*

- *He did, however, have sufficient food. His father had a job and he had a loving family.*
  - *He also learned to read and write in his studies in the synagogue.*
3. Did Jesus have the resources necessary to fulfill God's purpose for Him? Why or why not?
- *John 17:4 tells us Jesus completed the work God had given Him. He was able to achieve His purpose.*
4. What amount of wealth is necessary to reach God's intentions?
- *Jesus was poor, but He was able to achieve God's intentions for His life.*
5. Jesus grew in four areas. Can we help others grow in these areas? How?
- *Yes, these four areas give us a model that we can use to help others.*
  - *Growing in these four areas is a process that takes time*
6. If Jesus' development was a process of many years, how much time is needed for other people's development? How much time must we be prepared to invest in people's development?
- *It takes time for people to develop. If we want to help them then we have to be willing to invest hours over many years.*

### Application to our own life (4.2 Growth Chart)

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We not only need to develop in the four areas just as Jesus did, but also help others grow in these four areas.

**Instructions:** Give each person a copy of 4:2 Growth Chart: If you do not have copies of the chart available, draw the chart on the board and participants can draw it on a sheet of paper for themselves.

First, fill in this chart giving examples of how you can grow in each of these areas and encourage your family, church, and community to grow in these areas.

Remember to...

- Choose things that can be done in a week. If you choose something that is too large, it will be difficult to complete and the result will be discouragement. Choose something small so you can have success and can choose another thing next week.
- Choose something you are not already doing.

**Instructions:** Give them time to the first row of boxes. After a few minutes, have people give an example from some of the boxes. Ask if people are having a hard time finding something for one of the four boxes in the first row. Ask for others to give examples.

**Lower Literacy Groups**—if it is difficult for the group to fill in the table then just discuss the following areas:





- Think about ways you can grow in each of the four areas. What are some things that you are not already doing?
- Think about your own family. Are they growing in all four areas? What is one thing that you could do to help your family or someone in your family grow in one of these areas?
- Think about your church. Is there someone in your church that you could help grow in one of the four areas? What could you do?
- Think about your community. Is there someone in your community that you could help grow in one of the four areas? What could you do?

When we grow as Jesus did, we can also encourage or help others to grow in the same way. Jesus invested time with his disciples to help them grow. He modeled it in his life and he showed others how to grow in their lives. Jesus cared about how the people he led developed. People are willing to learn from us especially when they know we care about them and we want them to grow like Jesus grew.

Fill out the rest of the chart with ideas for helping your family, church and community grow in the areas Jesus grew.

**Instructions:** Give the students plenty of time to think. It is important that they have time to get good ideas rather than just rushing to try and think of the first idea that they can.

Once they are finished, ask for volunteers to share their ideas with the class. Ask if there are any boxes that are hard to find examples and see if the group can think of some good examples together (If there is not sufficient time for everyone to finish, encourage the students to take it home and continue to work on it.)

Context	Areas of Jesus' Growth			
For Growth	Wisdom	Physical	Spiritual	Social
 <p><b>Self</b></p>	<i>Read a book or article about an area that I want to learn more about</i>	<i>Take a long walk</i>	<i>Take a half day retreat to spend time in prayer</i>	<i>Send an encouraging note to a friend</i>
 <p><b>Family</b></p>	<i>Discuss applying two Proverbs with my family</i>	<i>Wash dishes after family meal</i>	<i>Lead my family in a daily devotion</i>	<i>Take spouse on a "date" (without the children)</i>
 <p><b>Church</b></p>	<i>Do Monday devotions on applying Sunday's sermon</i>	<i>Repair the walkway in front of the church</i>	<i>Pray each day for pastor and elders of the church</i>	<i>Invite different church members to our home for coffee</i>
 <p><b>Community</b></p>	<i>Discuss community problems with a community leader</i>	<i>Walk around neighborhood and pick up trash</i>	<i>Invite neighbors to a Christmas celebration at our home</i>	<i>Play soccer with neighborhood kids</i>

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (2-3 PEOPLE)

In groups of 2-3 people (no more than 3!), share the one thing you will commit to doing. Pray for each other that God will give you the ability to complete your commitment.

# Lesson 5: God Wants the Church to Help

## Objectives

1. Understand God's call to minister with actions as well as words.
2. Discover that as they show love with actions, people in the community will be drawn to the church.
3. Identify how their own church can start to make God's love visible.

## Main ideas

1. The Church is called to love their community through actions especially by meeting the needs of the poor.

## Materials

1. Student Guide:
  - a. 5.1 Case Studies (two copies for volunteers)
  - b. 5.2 Ways to Help (one copy per group)

## Introduction

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (4 PEOPLE)

Make a list of all the activities your church does (draw to represent each activity if necessary).

**Instructions:** When finished, ask the groups to go through the list and mark whether the activity is designed for people who attend church or those who don't attend church – how many are there for each? Then make a different mark for the activities that are focused on those that are poor and needy – how many are there?

### LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What do people in the community think about the church?
2. What do people in the community think the church does?
3. What do people in the community think about Christians?
4. Do people in the community want to come to church or do you have to go and invite them?
5. How do you think the people in the community would feel if the church wasn't there anymore?
6. Do you think this makes God happy?

## **Isaiah 58**

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Isaiah was writing to the Israelites who were God's chosen people. They are an example for the church today.

Read Isaiah 58:1-10 and discuss:

- What were the people doing?
- What was God's reaction to these people?
- Why did God react in this way?

### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (4-5 PEOPLE)**

Ask each group to summarize this passage by either drawing a picture or writing a sentence.

After each group has presented their sentence or picture, ask them what they think these ideas mean for the church today.

## **Salt and Light**

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### **SMALL OR LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

Read Matthew 5:13

- Why does Jesus say that Christians are "the salt of the earth"?
- How can we be like "salt"?
- In what ways could we lose our "saltiness"?

Read Matthew 5:14-16

- Why do we sometimes try to cover up the "light"?
- How can we shine more brightly?

## **Salt and Light Stories (5.1 Case Studies)**

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### **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Instructions:** Using 5.1 Case Studies, you can ask for volunteers to read each story.

#### **Read Story 1 – Saris for the Poor**

The church members in this church considered themselves an oppressed religious minority. They were fearful of ministering outside the Christian community. After learning that they should demonstrate Christ's love to the entire community, the pastor encouraged the women of the church to investigate community needs during the next week.

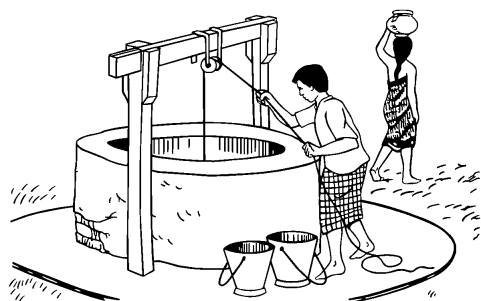
At the next week's service, the women reported they had found twelve Hindu women who each had only one sari (dress). In the hot climate, the saris must be washed daily. If a woman has only one sari, she stays inside until her washed sari has dried in the sun. The pastor asked if there were women in the congregation who had three saris and who would be willing to donate one to those Hindu women. Enough women volunteered to meet the reported need. The following week, the women of the church visited the homes where the women had only one sari, and they offered a second sari. The Hindu women were so impressed with this gesture that they invited the Christian women to pray for them. Some of the pregnant Hindu women also asked the Christian women to pray for their unborn children.



#### **Read Story 2 – Water for the Community**

In one area the people faced a huge water shortage. After learning about God's desire for the church to reach out to their community, the church leadership decided to explore what they could do on their own to meet the need for water. They found somewhere that rented equipment that could be used to dig wells by hand. At first, people rejected the idea—they thought that the water was too deep. If hand-dug wells were possible, they reasoned, why hadn't they been dug before? However,

the church leadership decided to try. They rented the one-by-one meter collapsible steel cylinder and winch. They moved it to their community and began to dig for water at the back of the church property. When water was struck at forty-five feet, everyone celebrated enthusiastically.



Non-church members, however, were not pleased. They thought that church members would keep the water for themselves. But instead, the church invited the community to share in God's blessings of their successful well. Soon, representatives from nearby parts of the

rural community began to ask church leaders if they would help dig wells in other parts of the community. The church responded positively. In little more than a year, fifteen wells were dug by hand, one more than eighty feet.

Because the church showed God's love to the community this way, the people were so impressed by the church that when the church invited the community to come to hear the message of God's love, it was filled with people. They were curious to know more about the God and the people who had provided water.

#### **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

- What did these churches do?
- Were they rich churches?
- What resources did they use?
- Why did they do these things?
- What was the impact of their actions?

### **Sheep and Goats – Matthew 25: 31-46**

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#### **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Instructions:** Help the students see that the emphasis of this passage is on physical things. Jesus didn't say "I was hungry and you gave me a tract" or "I was in the hospital and you sent me some sermon tapes." They were physical solutions to physical needs.

Read Matthew 25:31-46

1. What was the difference between the sheep and the goats?
2. What are some of the things that the sheep did? Are they spiritual things or physical things?
3. How often does your church do the things mentioned by Jesus?
4. What would be the impact on your community if all the members of your church did these things?

*Some possible answers:*

- *They would have a positive impression of the church*



- *Their lives would improve*
- *They would be more open to learning about God*







## **Ways To Help Others (5.2 Ways to Help Chart)**

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### **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY**

Think of some specific ideas of how the church can help in each of these situations. Use 5.2 Ways to Help chart and work together to fill in the chart.

**Instructions:** After they fill out the 5.2 Ways to Help chart, ask them to share their ideas with one other group.

Need	Ways that the Church Can Help
<p>Hungry</p> 	
<p>Thirsty</p> 	
<p>Naked</p> 	
<p>Lack of Shelter</p> 	
 <p>Sick</p>	
 <p>Imprison</p>	

# Lesson 6: What are Some Needs We Can Help With

## Objectives

1. Identify some of the resources already in the community.
2. Think of practical ways they can help using what they already have.
3. Open the students' eyes to the problems in the community.

## Main idea

1. God has good intentions for our community and has provided resources in the community to help meet those intentions.

## Materials

1. Student Guide:
  - a. 6.1 Pastor Wong (one copy per group)
  - b. 6.2 Case Study (one copy per group)

## Pastor Wong's Vision (6.1 Pastor Wong)

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### LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

#### Read Pastor Wong's story.

There once was a pastor of a small church in a very poor, urban barrio of a large city. His name was Wong. Wong had recently moved into the community because he felt God had sent him. The church was small—about 40 people. They were mostly women and children. Wong had two jobs. He worked at another job in order to provide for his wife and two small children, and he also did his best to pastor his little flock.

One day, as was his custom, he rose an hour before daybreak to have a private time with God. He got up, dressed, and slipped quietly past the curtain that separated the living quarters of his one-room house from the area where his wife and children continued to sleep. He lit the small tin can filled with kerosene, topped with a wick. He began to read from his Bible. On this particular morning, he was reading from Isaiah, chapter 58, and was hearing God's cry for the kind of worship He wants:

Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Wong could go no further. His heart fought with his mind. How could God care so much for the poor when Wong found himself in the midst of poverty and suffering that broke his heart? He knew how the people of his community struggled to survive. They were truly oppressed. Even he had barely

enough to feed his family and often couldn't buy them the medicine they needed. He thought, "Where is God? How can this Scripture fit in with the needs here in Las Pavas?"

While he was struggling with these thoughts, there was a quiet knock at the door. "Who could that be, so early in the morning?" Wong thought. He went to the door. "Who is it?" The voice on the other side said, "I'm Jesus, Wong." "Who?" asked Wong. "I'm Jesus, Wong," the voice replied. "Who are you, really?" asked Wong. The voice responded, "Wong, I'm Jesus. I've come because I heard the cry of your heart. I want you to show me what is troubling you."

The voice sounded genuine. Wong carefully unhooked the latch and opened the door. It was still dark and Wong could see only a silhouette, but it looked like who he imagined Jesus to be. "Come in, Lord," Wong said. "No, Wong, I want you to take me through your community and show me what it is that breaks your heart." Still surprised, Wong agreed, warning, "We'll have to walk carefully—it's been raining hard, there's lots of basura, and we don't have many latrines."

As they walked through the streets of the barrio, Wong told Jesus the stories of the houses they passed. In that one lived a woman who sold herself to feed her kids. In the next shack there was an alcoholic husband who beat his wife and kids every time he got drunk—which was often. Over there was the home of the patronato president, a corrupt man who extorted money on the promise of getting electricity for the community—but drank and gambled it away.

They passed an open place in the middle of the community. It was supposed to be a community square, but it was filled with foul-smelling garbage and scurrying rats. "See that house?" asked Wong, pointing to a shack on the brink of the hill. "A woman and four kids live there. The roof leaks—badly. They are very poor. They have very little to eat or wear, and they're almost always sick." By this time the two were at the edge of the hill on which Las Pavas was built. Wong pointed in the distance. "Way down there—that's where the women and children walk to get water. There isn't any water in Las Pavas."

Wong started to turn the corner, but he heard a soft weeping. He looked toward the sound. It was Jesus—Jesus was crying! Wong could see that the same things that broke his own heart also broke the heart of Jesus. Wong started to speak, but Jesus reached out and put His arm around Wong, looked at him, and said, "Wong, I want to show you what my intentions are for Las Pavas."

Suddenly, Wong found himself looking down on Las Pavas. Jesus began to speak, and Wong could see the things that Jesus described—they were taking place! Jesus talked about the people in Wong's church—as poor as they were—sharing what they had with their poorer neighbors. Daily, they saved a little rice and put it in a can. At the end of the week, they each had a full can of rice which they brought to the church to share, in Jesus' name, with community people who had less than they did. They did the same with soap. The church ladies visited the widows in the community and "adopted" them—helping them wash, cook, and care for their children when they were sick.

Jesus talked about employment, and Wong could see that the people had work. Not high-paying jobs, but jobs that gave dignity and paid enough to meet basic necessities. Jesus talked about housing, and Wong saw the shacks that let in the cold and rain were changed into houses. Not fancy houses, but houses that were safe and clean. Jesus talked about water, and suddenly there were standpipes in strategic places where women and children were getting clean water. Jesus talked

## Lesson 6: What Are Some Needs We Can Help With?

about sanitation, and Wong could see that there were latrines—not one for every house, but enough that everyone had access to one. And the garbage heap in the center of the community was gone. Instead, there were little trees, and there were children laughing and playing, kicking a ball. Jesus also talked about transformed lives, and Wong saw that the woman who had been selling her body now supported her kids with a respectable job. The drunkard was now a loving husband and dad. The patronato president wasn't using money dishonestly, but was really helping the community.

Then Jesus said, "Wong, look at the church!" Wong looked. It was full. There were men there! The people were happy. They were praising God for His goodness. There was Wong, preaching, teaching, and leading his people in the Spirit and in acts of obedient love. Jesus explained, "Wong, this vision won't come in its fullness until I return, but this is my intention for Las Pavas. I want you to share this vision and begin to lead the people of Las Pavas toward it."

Wong started to protest, "But, Lord, we're so poor!" "Wong," asked Jesus quietly, "who led the children of Israel across the Red Sea? Who multiplied the loaves and fish and fed five thousand men plus women and children? Who stretched the oil and flour of the widow of Zarephath so that there was enough to feed her family for three years of famine? Who calmed the Sea of Galilee?" "You did, Lord," said Wong. "Then, Wong, be obedient to what I have asked you to do. Share what you have, even though it is little. Proclaim my good intentions for your people—both spiritually and physically. And I will heal your land!"

Wong heard a rooster crow. His wife coughed and stirred on the other side of the curtain. He was sitting at the table, but his lamp had gone out. It was becoming light. Wong looked around for Jesus, but didn't see Him. He wondered, "Did I have a dream? Was it a vision?" He didn't know, but Wong did know that he had been met by Jesus and that he had a new understanding of God's concern for the poor...and a fresh vision of how he was to lead his people to exhibit God's love in Las Pavas.

### SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

**Instructions:** Give one copy of 6.1 Pastor Wong's story to each group:

- What are some of the problems that are found in Pastor Wong's community? Divide these problems into four lists: spiritual, social, physical, and mental.
- What was God's intention for this community? Go through each of the problems and look at what Jesus showed the solution to be.
- What did Jesus tell Pastor Wong to do?

### LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

What did you learn from the true story of Pastor Wong and your discussion questions?

- *God has good intentions for his community both physically and spiritually.*

- *Jesus told Pastor Wong to proclaim His good intentions for the community.*
- *Being poor is not a problem for God. We are just to obey Him.*
- *God will heal our land when we follow His ways.*

## **Case Study: Jose & Maria (6.2 Case Study)**

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### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Instructions:** Give one copy of the 6.2 Case Study of Jose and Maria to each group.

Assume Jose and Maria's community is similar to your community. *(For each of the questions, some sample answers have been listed below.)*

Jose and Maria's house has just burnt down; absolutely nothing was left. Yesterday, they—with their five children—stayed with relatives. However, there are already 10 people living in this very small house, so there isn't space for seven more. Jose is a farmer and he has already finished planting his small field, but there are still another three months until he will harvest. He spent all the money he has on seed for his field and all he owned was burnt in the fire.

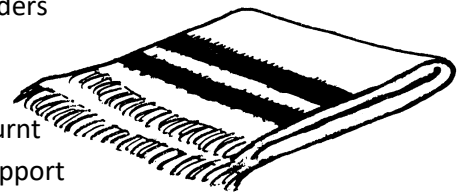


What are some of the needs of this family?

- *Food*
- *Shelter*
- *Clothing*
- *Things to cook with*
- *Somewhere to sleep while their house is being rebuilt*

What are some of the things available in the community to help?

- People
  - Labor to help build a new house
  - People to help prepare a meal for the volunteer builders
  - People to help look after the children
  - People to comfort and support the family
  - People to help clean up the spot where the house burnt
  - Government officials that can provide emergency support
- Materials
  - Spare pots and pans
  - Food
  - Clothing
  - Blankets
- Facilities
  - Somewhere to stay



## **Our Community**

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### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Answer the following questions. If you are able, then encourage the groups to walk around their community for 10-20 minutes to remind themselves of some of the key problems in their communities.

1. What are some of the problems in your community?
2. What do you think God's intentions for those situations are?

### **LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY**

**Instructions:** Select the top three problems using seed voting (see note below).

What is God asking your church to do? Take the three problems you identified and for each of them talk about what you have in your community that could help to solve this problem. Talk about what people, materials, funds and facilities are available to help solve that problem. Pray together about what you will do with what you have discussed.

#### **Seed Voting Instructions:**

There are two ways you can do seed voting with the class:

1. Give each person ten seeds (toothpicks, leaves, stones, etc.) and ask them to place their seeds as follows: four seeds to the problem they think is most important, three to the next most important, two to the third most important, and one to the fourth most important.
2. Give each person ten seeds and ask them to distribute them among the problems, giving more seeds to those projects they feel are most important.

Both ways will show which problems receive the most votes or seeds.

# Lesson 7: Kingdom Math

## Objectives

1. Witness God's multiplication and blessings on people as they obey.
2. Understand the law of the harvest: seeds sown obediently and multiplied by God do bear fruit, even if the sower does not necessarily experience or see the benefit personally.
3. See that even the poor can "love your neighbor as yourself."
4. Realize people already have what it takes to fulfill that command to love their neighbor.
5. Understand there are consequences of obedience/ disobedience in loving others.

## Main ideas

1. Even the poor can give something, as they give we will see God multiply their efforts in remarkable ways.

## Materials

1. Visual Aids:
  - a. 7.1 Isaiah 40:29 Signs (5 pages/1 set only)
  - b. 7.2 Five Loaves, Two Fish envelopes (1 envelope per group)
  - c. 7.3 Elijah & the Widow envelopes (1 envelope per group)
  - d. 7.4 A Widow and Her Two Coins envelopes (1 envelope per group)
  - e. 7.5 Parable of the Talents envelopes (1 envelope per group)

**Note:** If the group has low math literacy then only use the cards that describe what they had before and after. Ask the group to sort the pictures into two piles – before and after. Ask them, "What is the difference between these two piles? How did the people go from pile one to two?" GOD. Make sure they understand God caused the multiplication.

## Introduction: Isaiah 40:29 (Card Set 7.1)

Have you noticed that the Bible has mathematical principles in it? In this lesson, we are going to look at some of the mathematics found in the bible.

## LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Isaiah 40:29. Explain that this will be our key verse for this lesson.

- Who is strong? Who is weak?
- What does God do for us?



- Can we put this verse into a mathematical formula? Lets try...

**Instructions:** If you have a large group, invite five of the people to the front and give them each one of the words or mathematical signs (Visual Aid: Card Set 7.1).

For a small group, put all the cards on the floor and work together to get them in the correct order.

“Our Weakness x God = Strength”

What can we learn from this verse—this “formula”?

### **“A Boy and His Lunch”: John 6:1-14 (Card Set 7.2)**

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**Instructions:** For each of the stories in this lesson, be prepared to tell the story in a creative manner.

Once there was a little boy. He heard that a famous teacher was coming to the Sea of Galilee and wanted to go and hear him speak. He asked his mother, but she said no. It was too far and lunch was almost ready. He begged again and again and finally his mother agreed. She packed him a small lunch in his handkerchief and he took off.

When he finally reached his destination, he discovered it was already packed with people. As with any young boy, he pushed through the crowd to the front. Finally, he found a place where he could easily hear the teacher and his followers. He couldn’t believe the way the teacher spoke and the things he said. He completely forgot he still hadn’t eaten his lunch.

Finally, the hunger pains started getting too much and he remembered the lunch his mother had packed for him. He reached slowly into his pocket trying not to draw attention to himself.

All of a sudden, the teacher stopped and told his disciples to feed everyone. The boy looked around and realized the crowd had grown to 20,000 people. “Wow,” he wondered, “how are they going to make food for so many people?” Just as he was wondering, the disciples seemed to have the same thought and one asked the teacher where they were going to get the money to feed such a crowd. It would take at least a year’s wages.

The teacher asked them, “What do you have?” The small boy started to hide his lunch, but it was too late. One helper, Andrew, saw him. “Teacher,” he said, “we have 1,2,3,4,5 slices of bread and 2 fish.”

The teacher replied, “Bring them to me.”

Can you imagine what happened next?

Andrew said to the boy, “The teacher wants your lunch.” The boy agreed to give his lunch to Andrew, who in turn gave it to the Teacher.

Jesus took the boy's lunch and gave thanks, then started to divide the food. The boy stared in disbelief as the helpers kept passing food out. Everyone was eating and continued to eat until they were full. He looked around and saw that there were 12 baskets of food left.

Now he couldn't wait to get home and tell his mother. He ran all the way home and told her with great excitement that his lunch had fed 5,000 men, women, and children! His mother turned to him and sighed, "Son, how many times do I have to tell you not to make up stories!"

How can we turn this story into a formula?

### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-4 PEOPLE)**

**Instructions:** Give each group an envelope with the "boy and his lunch" cut outs (Visual Aid Card Set 7.2) OR make large signs and ask the group to work together to make a formula. Give them suggestions to help them find the answer. Once the group has done one math formula together, they can do the rest in small groups.

**Answer:** "boy + 5 loaves + 2 fish x Jesus = food for 5000 + women and children + 12 baskets"

Now that's Kingdom Math!

### **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Did Jesus need the boy and his lunch? Was there another way that He could have fed the people?
- Why did Jesus choose to take a little boy's only food?

Tell the class that while they consider these questions, we will continue to do more bible math.

## “The Widow and Her Last Meal”: 1 Kings 17:7 (Card Set 7.3)

It was a very difficult time in Israel’s history. The country had been in a terrible famine for 3 ½ years. People were dying. Even Elijah, God’s prophet, suffered.

But God used a widow woman to care for Elijah. As Elijah walked through the town, he saw a woman picking up sticks and God told him to go to her and ask for “a little water in a jar to drink.” The women agreed to get the water for Elijah, but before she could, Elijah then asked if she would also bring him bread to eat first, even before she and her son had eaten.

The woman replied, “As the Lord lives, I have only enough for one meal, for my son and I, and then we will surely die!” To this Elijah answered her, “Don’t be afraid, the Lord will provide.”

The woman turned to leave and make food for Elijah from the small amount of oil and flour she had. Yet when she had used all of her oil and flour to prepare bread for Elijah, she was surprised to discover her jars of oil and flour were full again, as if they had not been touched. The woman said to Elijah, “I used all I had for you, but now it’s back. Praise the Lord!”

The Bible tells us that not only did God provide enough for Elijah, the woman and the woman’s family on that day, but He provided enough for her and her family to eat for another 3 ½ years! A miracle.

That’s Kingdom Math!

How can we turn this story into a formula?

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

**Instructions:** Distribute the envelopes (Visual Aid Card Set 7.3) and allow each group to try and create a formula.

In the low literacy envelope, place the words or symbols for:

- Widow
- 1 cake
- Food for three people for 3 years

**Answer:** “Widow + 1 cake x God = 1 cake x 3 people x 365 days x 3 years = 3,285”

**LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Was the woman poor?
- Could God have fed Elijah another way?
- Why did God ask Elijah to go to the poor widow woman and ask to be fed?
- Why did God ask the little boy for his only food?
- Does God have a heart for poor and widows?

**“Widow and Her Two Coins”: Mark 12:41 (Card Set 7.4)**

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One day when Jesus was at the temple sitting near the offering basket, He saw the rich drawing attention to themselves as they gave offerings. One poor woman had only two small coins. Because it was all she had, she felt ashamed and did not want others to see, so she gave her offering quietly, as if in secret.

Jesus gathered His disciples and made an observation saying, “This woman gave more than all of the others.”

**LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

- What did Jesus mean? How did she give more?
- Why didn’t Jesus tell her “No, mother, you need it more than the temple.” He could have, but He didn’t. Why?

Instead of stopping her, Jesus took special note of her sacrifice. Since then, the story of her giving has been written down for many to read. While true that she gave proportionally more, it is literally true as well. For more than 2000 years, Christians have been inspired by her. Think how much has been given as a result of her example. This is the BIGGEST multiplication of all. She gave what she had and God multiplied it. That is Kingdom Math!

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Instructions:** Distribute the envelopes (Visual Aid Card Set 7.4) and allow each group to try and create a formula.

Low literacy

- Widow
- Two coins
- Inspiration for 2,000 years

**Answer:** “widow + 2 coins x Jesus = 2,000 years of inspiration!”

**REINFORCE:**

- God asked a little boy to give his only lunch...
- He asked a widow to feed Elijah first, giving him her last meal...
- He allowed this widow to give all that she had...

**LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Did Jesus excuse the poor from giving?
- Do givers always see or experience personal blessing in this life?
- To be obedient to Jesus’ command to love our neighbor, what do we need? Anything special? (We only need what we have.)
- What attitude? (An attitude of faith, obedience, and humility.)
- Is anything “too little” or “too insignificant” to give to God?
- Does God bless the giving of the poor?
- When God blesses the gifts of the poor, is it “addition” or “multiplication?”

One last story. This one is not so happy...

**“Parable of the Talents”: Matthew 25:14 (Card Set 7.5)**

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There was once a wealthy man going on a long journey. Before leaving, he called his three servants. To the first, he gave five coins and said, “Put it to work until I return.” To the second, he gave two coins and said, “Put it to work until I return.” And lastly, to the third, he gave one coin and repeated, “Put it to work until I return.”

The wealthy man went away and after a very long time he came back. He once again called his three servants and asked how they had done in his absence. The first servant reported he had gained five more coins. To this, the wealthy man replied, “Well done! Faithful with few, now have more.” The second servant then reported he had gained two more coins and again the wealthy man replied, “Well done! Faithful with few, now have more.”

Then lastly, the third servant explained, “I know you are a hard and difficult man. I was afraid to lose the coin you gave me so I buried it. It is not lost.” To this the wealthy man replied, “Lazy and wicked servant!” He took his coin, gave it to the first servant, and threw him out of the Kingdom.

This, too, is Kingdom Math. Let’s see...

### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Instructions:** Distribute the envelopes (Visual Aid Card Set 7.5) and allow each group to try and create a formula.

**Answer:** “servant + 1 talent x 0 = 0 increase + servant thrown into darkness”

### **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Who was given the least, the poorest? But look what happened!
- Doesn’t God care about the poor? So why was he thrown out of the Kingdom?
- What consequence is there even for the poor if they do not obey Jesus?

## **Conclusion**

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**Instructions:** Ask the group to think through the following questions. As appropriate, ask them to discuss the answers.

1. How have we been applying these principles in our personal life?
2. How much are these principles being practiced in our church?
3. What changes can I make to apply these principles more in my life and church?

# Lesson 8: Understanding How to Help

## Objectives

1. Discover that true development is teaching others to do things for themselves.
2. Clarify when it is good to do something for someone and when it is better to teach them to do it for themselves.

## Main Idea

1. We need to help people grow by doing things for themselves rather than causing them to depend on us.

## Materials

1. Student Guide:
  - a. 8.1 Mrs Lee Discussion Guide (1 per group)
  - b. 8.2 A Family In Need Discussion Guide (1 per group)

## River Crossing

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**Instructions:** Ask for three volunteers to help act out the next story.

Draw two lines with chalk on the floor to be banks of a river. Draw two circles representing stepping-stones and a larger circle to represent an island.

Two men come to the river and want to cross, but do not know how to swim. The current is strong and they are afraid to cross. A third man comes along and sees their difficulty. He offers to help them cross on the stepping-stones, but they are afraid. He agrees to carry one on his back, but only manages to reach the island where he leaves the first man.

He then returns to get the second man, but is now too tired to carry him. The third man refuses to carry the man who is left, but agrees to help him walk across on the stones. Halfway across, the second man feels confident enough to manage on his own. Both men cross the river and the one man is left on the island and shouts for help as the first man walks away.

## LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What did you see happening in this role play?
2. What different approaches were used to help the two men across the river?
  - *One man was carried across, while another was helped and actually taught how to cross the river.*

3. What happened to the first man? Is he better off or worse off than when he started?
  - *He was left stranded in the middle of the river.*
  - *He is now worse off because he doesn't have the ability to get off the island*
4. Who learned something that was helpful to him—the man who watched or the man who was taught by doing?
  - *The man who was taught by doing.*
  - *To learn, people need example and encouragement.*
5. What happens if we do something for someone rather than helping them to do it for themselves?
  - *They never learn to do things for themselves and always need us to help them.*
6. What must we do to ensure those we help develop a sense of independence?
  - *Teach people how to do things for themselves.*
  - *Be willing to walk with someone at their speed until they are able to walk by themselves.*

**Instructions:** Do a second act of the same role play. This time have the second man that was helped across the river go back to the man who was left on the island and teach him to cross the river safely, so he, in turn, can also teach others.

What lesson can we learn from the second act?

- *If we teach people, they can teach others and in the end more people are helped.*

Ancient Saying “If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, then you feed him for a lifetime.”

- What does this saying mean?
- How does it apply to helping people in our community?
- What are some examples of ways that we could “teach a person to fish” rather than just giving them fish?

What can we learn from this story that would apply to our work with people in our community that may not know how to do things that will help them grow and develop as God intends for them?



**Instructions:** Explain that this is a story that helps us understand how to help people. The first side of the river represents a poor community or person and the side that they want to get to is a developed person or community. The people that want to cross represent the poor that need help and the third man represents us, the one that wants to help.

## Mrs. Lee—Real Stories of Transformation (8.1 Discussion Guide)

### LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

Mrs. Lee is a real woman in Asia, but her name has been changed. She longed to help the poor families in her community, especially those without work. She started to visit some of the families every month looking for ways to help them make a living. Here are three of the many stories of how she has been able to help families. These stories are all true.

#### Story 1 – Mrs. Lee and the flower garden

In her area, there was a poor family with two children. Both mother and father were unemployed. Mrs. Lee stopped by to visit and noticed there was a small piece of land with soil in front of their home. “Why don’t you plant some flowers,” she asked. “You can make your home more beautiful and also sell them in the market nearby.”



The mother in this family did just that, and began taking the flowers she grew to the market where she sold them. She soon found that buyers were asking for other types of flowers as well, but she only had a small piece of land and couldn’t plant any other types. This mother, however, began purchasing flowers from other growers and selling them, alongside hers, for a profit. Now that she had a small space in the market to sell her flowers, she thought to herself, “I could sell other things as well!” She wakes up early every morning to buy bananas and coconuts to sell at the market at her flower stand.

#### Story 2 – Mrs. Lee and the sweet potatoes

Another family that needed help wanted to work, but didn’t know what to do and didn’t have any special skills. They did work as daily laborers, but they often weren’t able to find work. Mrs. Lee could see that this family was hard working and really did want to work, so she went to visit another family in the church that were sweet potato farmers. She asked them whether sweet potato farming was profitable, if there was a good market, and what you need to start sweet potato farming.

When she learned that it was a good job, she explained to the family that God has called us to love our neighbors and look after the poor. She asked them if they would be willing to teach the poor family how to be sweet potato farmers. They agreed. Mrs. Lee introduced the two families. The poor family was excited that now they would be able to do something and quickly went and rented a small piece of land and everything that was necessary to start. At the end of the year, they had a good harvest and were able to pay the rent on the land, the money for the seed, and still have a good profit for the family.

### **Story 3 – Mrs. Lee and family reconciliation**

The third family Mrs. Lee wanted to help had been separated from their parents. The parents believed that this family was useless and wouldn't amount to anything. Mrs. Lee met with the family to try and reconcile the two sides. Mrs. Lee guaranteed that she would meet regularly with the family and help them to improve their lives if the parents were willing to accept the family back and help them a little. As a result, the parents decided to trust their son again and decided to loan him some money so he could start a scrap metal business. He now buys old, used things which are made of iron and sells them to the local recycling shop. Now he is able to support his family and feels like he has dignity.



### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Think about these stories and discuss the questions on 8.1 Mrs. Lee Discussion Guide:

1. What did Mrs. Lee do for each of the families?
  - *Gave advice and encouragement*
  - *Visited others, such as the family who grew sweet potatoes, to learn if it was profitable and if they would be willing to help.*
2. What was the result of Mrs. Lee's actions?
  - *People had jobs and were able to provide for their family.*
  - *People had pride because they were able to do something to help themselves.*
3. What would have happened if Mrs. Lee had just given money or food to each of these people?
  - *They wouldn't have changed.*
4. If Mrs. Lee had given them money each week for two years and then



stopped, do you think that their lives would have improved as much as they did?

- *No, they would have gotten used to Mrs. Lee giving them money and would have relied on that rather than working.*

5. What is the difference between helping with money and the way that Mrs. Lee helped?

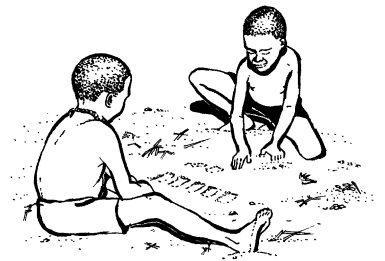
- *She gave people skills and a practical way to help themselves.*

6. Imagine if many of us started acting like Mrs. Lee—visiting families and listening, looking and trying to understand their problems, and then looking for solutions. What would be the impact on your community?

## A Family In Need (8.2 Discussion Guide)

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

**Instructions:** Using 8.2 Discussion Guide, read the following story and ask them to answer the two questions.



There is a family that lives near your church. The husband is usually gone, but once every month or two he returns for a few days and brings back a little money for the family. The wife looks after their three children and none of them attend school. Usually, the children are running around barefoot and wearing very old clothes. Their house is extremely run down and leaks terribly in the rain. Once when you passed the house, you heard the children crying because they were hungry.

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

What are some of the needs that this family has?

More than anything, this woman probably feels hopeless. Many people who aren't working aren't necessarily lazy as we might expect. Often they are overwhelmed by the difficulties of life and have trouble believing that they can change anything. Your most important job is to help them see that the situation can change by helping them to start changing. While a small gift of rice to this family is okay, if you do that more than once you are just encouraging them to believe that they are hopeless. What they need is hope that life can change.

**Instructions:** Make sure that the class understands the problem of hopelessness and that the best way to overcome that problem is not giving things but helping the people do something for themselves.

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

What is a way that you could help by being like Mrs. Lee to this family?

Possible Answers

- *Help the wife and younger children to earn some money. Do they have some land or any special skills?*
- *Help the younger children go to school. Take the mother with you to talk to people at the local government office and see if they can get a free school pass or if there is a literacy program running in your area. Find out what help is available.*
- *Collect used clothing at the church and try to provide some basic clothing for each of the children.*
- *Start visiting with the mother on a regular basis and encourage her to see that life can be different.*
- *Help the family to rebuild the house. Ask a few people from the church to come and help with the work, but use the materials that the family has and the labor of the children. Eight year olds have plenty of energy!*
- *Encourage the family to start a small garden to grow vegetables so that they have a better diet.*
- *Offer the family a few chicks and get someone in the church to help them learn about chicken farming. If necessary, keep the chickens at your house so the family isn't tempted to eat them immediately and ask one of the children to come every day to collect the eggs and look after the chickens. Make sure you teach them how to look after the chickens well.*
- *Contact the husband and wife's family. Can they help in any way?*
- *Help the family to better plan how to use the husband's money. Can they invest it into something else that will give them more money in the future? How can they better make it last for the whole time?*

### Application

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#### WITH A PARTNER

In pairs, pray and ask God to show you one family that you can help like Mrs. Lee did. If the family is one that you don't know well, make a plan to start building a relationship with them by visiting with them. Before you go each time, ask God to open your eyes and ears to understand their real problems and give you ideas on how you can help. Remember to keep praying for them as you help them and they get their businesses established. Be willing to keep visiting once a month and giving advice for a year.

# Lesson 9: Acts of Love

## Objectives

1. Learn the characteristics of an Act of Love.
2. Discover how Acts of Love can bring changes to a community.
3. List some ideas of what they could do as an Act of Love.

## Main idea

1. We can love our community by doing acts of love using the characteristic of acts of love, Done to demonstrate God's love, small and simple,

## Materials

1. Student Guide
  - a. 9.1: Characteristics of an Act of Love (one copy per student)
2. Small Prize for Introduction activity
3. 2-3 Act of Love stories – see [www.TCTprogram.org/stories](http://www.TCTprogram.org/stories)
4. Application Question Poster

## Introduction

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### WITH A PARTNER

We are going to play a game. Think of as many things as possible that could be done by your church to help people without spending any money at all. The partners with the most answers after 7 minutes will receive a prize.

**Instructions:** After a few minutes, remind them to think about all the skills that people have in their church that could be donated.

After the activity is finished and the prize has been given, have the group make a list on the board or poster of all the skills and resources that they currently have in their church.

## Acts of Love

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Acts of Love are small projects that are done by the church to demonstrate God's love to their community. Usually they are very simple and can be done in a day.

**Instructions:** Share 2-3 stories of Acts of Love – you can find some on our website. ([www.TCTprogram.org/stories](http://www.TCTprogram.org/stories))

## **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

What were some of the results of these Acts of Love?

- The church was strengthened
- The community was closer to the church
- People came to Christ
- People were helped
- The Act of Love was able to grow into a larger project

## **Characteristics of an Act of Love (9.1 Characteristics of An Act of Love)**

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### **LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION**

There are six specific characteristics of an Act of Love. We will go through them using the 9.1 handout.

#### **1. Done to show God's love - Motive is love and not evangelism**

- What impression do non-Christians have of Christians in your community? Why?
- Do people ever come to church without being invited? Why or why not?
- What impression do non-Christians have of God? What do they think are the main characteristics of God?

**Instructions:** Remind the class of the lessons learned in Lesson 3: Love God and Love Our Neighbor. We need to be people that demonstrate our love to God by loving our neighbor.

- What do you think people in your community would say if your church started to do some of the things mentioned in the Acts of Love stories?

One of the key goals of an Act of Love is to show God's love to your community.

- Why would we want to focus on doing Acts of Love non-Christians rather than for Christians?

We need to do Acts of Love for non-Christians because they really need to see God's love for them. Most people will never go to church so it is only as we go out and demonstrate God's love that they will be able to understand God's love for them. However, we do want to make sure we also help

those in the church. We recommend you start with something that shows love to a non-Christian or the whole community but feel free to move to projects that also help believers.

Think of one of the Acts of Love Story that was shared, how did the action demonstrate God's love and what was the response to those who experienced God's love?

## **2. Done in obedience to God**

- **not to carry out surveys but obeying God's direction (God's ideas often are not our ideas**
- **Do in obedience to God not to please leaders or the program**
- 

Read what Jesus told his disciples in John 14:15 & 21

- Why does Jesus say that it important for us to obey what God commands us?

As with everything, we want to make sure we are always walking in obedience to God. Rather than doing a community survey to understand the needs and doing what we learned just from that, we want to start with prayer, asking God what He wants us to do. **Often the most impactful Acts of Love are not the things that make sense.**

In Mexico, there was a village where all the people were drug growers. A missionary went to the area and all the people were converted. The missionary then continued to pray and fast with them as they sought to know what God wanted them to do. In their community they had no latrines, no clean water, and the pigs and chickens would walk in and out of the house. As they prayed about the idea of an Act of love, God showed them that they should care for the widows by building houses for them. This was completely different from the advice anyone would have given them. In their culture, the leaders are very important but they also had poor quality houses. Anyone in the community would have advised them to start by building new houses for the leaders. But God called them to care for the widows. They were obedient to God and built new houses for the widows. Consequently, the people in nearby villages heard about this unusual project and came to find out more. As a result, a revival broke out in their area with many people giving their lives to the Lord. If they had done what everyone expected, they would not have seen the same impact. However, because they were obedient to God and not their culture, the impact was incredible.

In another country, the church decided to do an Act of Love. They felt that God was telling them to help the wife of the gang leader in the area. They were fearful, as the gang leader had a reputation for becoming very angry and beating up people with little reason. However, the church wanted to obey God. They waited until the gang leader was out of town and they helped his wife to harvest the fields and prepare the crops for selling. When the gang leader came home, he saw all the crops harvested and started to shout, "Who did this?" She was afraid to tell him, fearful he would make trouble, but eventually confessed that the church had helped. The gang leader stormed off to the church and pounded the door. The pastor answered (after calling the deacons for back up) and the

gang leader came in. “Why did you do that,” he demanded. They replied that they simply wanted to show God’s love. The man started to cry, sharing that no one had ever loved him before in his life. He became a Christian, turned his life around, and went on to lead six more families from the gang to Christ.

- How did the church decide who to show God’s love to?
- What was the impact or change in the community?

Although following God’s direction may not make sense in our way of thinking, we can be confident that if God is leading us to do something, it will accomplish what He desires and we will be blessed by participating in His plans.

### **3. Done through God’s strength - it’s difficult to love , we can only do it through his strength**

Read John 15: 1-8.

- What does this passage tell us about how much can we do by ourselves? What do you think this means?
- How do we bear much fruit?

Helping people can be really hard. Only God can really bring the change we hope to see in our communities. If we want to see our communities changed through these projects, we really need to be looking to God and asking Him for help.

- In John 15:5 the Bible says: “If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.” What do you think it means to remain in God?

Reading the Bible to seek God’s truth. Asking for direction and guidance in understanding the needs of your community. Faithfully seeking God in prayer and listening quietly for His wisdom. Asking the Lord to give you the strength to carry out the Act of Love project.

As we seek God in prayer, listen and remain in Him. We can trust that in His time our project will bear good fruit.

- How can we trust in God’s strength during these projects?

We should always be praying before, during, and after we do the projects. When we face a challenge or obstacles, we ask God to make a new way ahead or even if we only get tired or discouraged, we trust God to give us His strength to keep going.



#### **4. Done so that God is praised -**

Read John 15:8.

- What is the purpose of bearing much fruit?

Read Matthew 5:13-16

- Why do we do good deeds?
- What should our goal be when we do Acts of Love?

After we do each project, we should take time to evaluate. What was the result of this project?  
Think about three areas:

1. Were the people helped?
2. Was the project done in a loving way?
3. Was God praised?

The reality is that not every time we do an Act of Love will we have the opportunity to speak about God, but it should be our desire to make sure that we are glorifying God at all times and doing things in such a way that honors Him. If we can't speak about God, even our attitude, our joy and our motive to serve others can be a testimony that brings God honor and praise.

#### **5. Small and Simple**

When you first start doing Acts of Love, we encourage you to choose things that are very simple. Ideally, they should be able to be done in a day.

- Why do you think it is important to start with small and simple Acts of Love?
  - *Able to complete it. If we do something large then it is easy to get overwhelmed and harder to achieve it. However, if we do something small and simple then we are more likely to actually do it and get finished.*
  - *More people can get involved. It is easier for people to sign up for a small project and commit to it if they know that it's just one day or an afternoon. They will say "Oh, I can do that. I am free that afternoon". But if it is a big project (that takes many days to finish) then people are more hesitate to commit their time and resources, especially the idea of doing something for other is still new to them.*
  - *Opportunity to build our skills. Maybe we haven't had much experience in doing projects. This gives us the opportunity to do something similar and get experience before we try to do something much more complicated.*

- *Quickly successful. As we are successful in small projects, we get others to join who are attracted by the success. Maybe when you first start only a few in the church will be interested in participating, but as you teach more and model successful projects more people will be interested in joining.*

It is better to do small Acts of Love frequently (once every week or two weeks) than to do a big project as a one off thing. In addition to all the advantages of doing small Acts of Love as listed above, doing frequently also helps to imprint the image of the church caring in the mind people in the community.

## **6. Done using local resources**

Using local resources may seem challenging when you first think about it because we often are aware of our lack of resources.

- Why do you think that one of the characteristics is that it is done with local resources – those resources that God already provided you and not from outside?
- Why do you think that this is important?
  - *More of a sacrificial demonstration of love.*
  - *The blessings of giving.*
  - *Builds dignity and our stewardship skills.*
  - *It teaches us to rely on God to use what He has given us.*

Using local resources is a very important characteristic especially for these four reasons.

### **1. Sacrificial demonstration of love – Think about the story of the saris in lesson 5.**

- Do you think it would have had the same impact if it had just been a large NGO that brought the saris to the community?
  - *No, it would not.*
- Why did the people feel loved?
  - *It was because they saw the love of the people as they sacrificed.*

If the community doesn't feel that any sacrifice or effort went into it, they will not see God's love towards them in the same way.

### **2. The blessings of giving – Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11.**

God has told us that he will bless those who give in the same measure as we give. However, look again at these verses.

- Why does God bless us?

- *So we can be generous on every occasion.*
- *So that God will be praised*

3. Builds dignity and our stewardship skills.

- How do you feel about yourself when other people do things for you that you could do yourself?
  - *You can lose confidence that you can have anything to contribute.*
- How do you feel when you are able to serve and help someone with what you have?
  - *You have joy, you feel useful.*
  - *It shows us that we have more than we think and we are responsible to use part of what we do have to bless others.*

4. It teaches us to rely on God to use what He has given us and shows us that He can use whatever He has already given to us.

As churches have given generously we have seen them blessed by God. They have started to move out of poverty. But even more importantly as they have more they are able to be even more generous and do even more projects. It's an exciting cycle that has led many communities to move out of poverty.

- Do you think we would see the same results if we used outside resources?
  - *Not in the same way*

God has promised to bless those who give not those who receive. If we are only receivers then we miss out on seeing God multiply our efforts. We miss out on some of the blessing he has promised.

Using outside resources can have significant challenges. For example in our area people are very suspicious of the church. It's not uncommon for people to suspect the church has taken some of the resources for themselves and just only give part of it to outsiders. Outside funds also can easily cause problems for the church. Even within the church, Satan can use outside resources to cause suspicion and disunity amongst churches.

- What if we have no resources?
  - *We do.*

We need to open our eyes to what God has given us. What are some of the skills in our community (farmers, teachers, doctors, engineers, construction workers, tailors)? What are some of the skills that we as humans have (our bodies, minds, creativity, and time)? We need to exercise creativity to see what God has given us.

2 Peter 1:3-5 talks about the fact that God has granted us all things that pertain to life and godliness so we need to open our eyes to see and use what we are given for His glory.

## **Application**

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### **WITH A PARTNER**

Think back to the ideas that were presented in the opening exercise of this lesson. Form your groups of two again and select three of these activities to evaluate. Use the questions on 9.1 Activity Evaluation:

1. How could this activity help you show God's love in the community? What could be added or changed to this activity to better show God's love?
2. What is an example of a small and simple project that can be done in a day's time?
3. What resources are needed to complete this project that are readily available in your community?
4. How does this activity change the community? Is this the type of change you would like to see in your community? If not, how could this activity be altered to better impact your community?
5. How would we know if we were doing this activity in obedience to God?
6. Do you think God would be glorified by completing this activity? How could we participate in giving Him praise for what was done?

# Lesson 10: Planning Acts of Love

## Objectives

1. Learn how to plan for an Act of Love.
2. Choose an Act of Love to do for their own community.
3. Create a plan.

## Main idea

1. Prayer, organizing and evaluating are key parts of an act of love

## Materials

1. Student Guide
  - a. 10.1 Planning Forms (3 pages) – one copy per group.
2. Large sheets of paper for every 5-7 people

## Planning Steps (10.1 Planning Forms)

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### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (5-7 PEOPLE)

**Instructions:** Start by having the groups read through the Planning Steps page on the 10.1 Planning Forms. See if they have any questions.

### Choose An Act of Love to Plan

**Instructions:** Ask each group to start thinking about what they can plan to do as an Act of Love. Remind them to start with prayer and ask God what He wants them to do. After five minutes, stop the group and ask them what they plan to do.

Make sure each group's idea is an appropriate activity. Often groups are ambitious and plan much larger projects. Encourage them to choose something smaller. The smaller the project is, the more likely they are to actually implement it and the more likely it is to succeed. Those that start with large projects are more likely to experience setbacks and become discouraged.

Once they have identified an activity, have them check to see if it can fit the six Act of Love Characteristics. (Review the 6 Characteristics as needed). When they have found an Act of Love that fits the characteristics and isn't too big, give each group a large piece of paper in which to write their plan so they are able to share it with the other students.

### REPORT BACK

### Share Their Act of Love Plan

**Instructions:** After each group presents, affirm at least two things that each group did well in their planning. Then invite the other students to help them see what possible problems there could be so that the groups have the opportunity to improve their plans. Help them to see areas that might not yet be well thought through.

Pray for each group. Tell them they will have an opportunity to share what God did in our next training time together.

## Planning Steps

### Step 1: Prayer

The first thing to do is to pray. Take time now to pray. Ask God to show you what you should do for your Act of Love.

### Step 2: Selecting an Activity

As a group, decide what you could do as an Act of Love. Look at some of the ideas that you listed in the lessons “God wants the church to help” and “What are some of the needs in the community.” Together, agree on what you feel God is leading you to do.

Once you have selected a topic, make sure it is something that you can do in just one or two days. If it isn’t, then can you just do one or two steps?

### Step 3: Decide What is Needed

The next step is to start planning. First, we must decide what we need to do the project—what people are required, what materials, what permission, etc. To help you think about this, you can use the worksheet in your student book. Once you have filled in the first column with everything that you will need, then you can decide who will be responsible and what date it needs to be completed by.

### Step 4: Write the Plan

Make sure your plan answers these questions. (If the group has low literacy then it isn’t so important that the plan is written, but make sure they have discussed each of these questions.)

- What are you going to do?
- What do you need to do it? Where will you get those things?
- Who are you going to help? Have you asked them?
- Who is going to participate in helping?
- What date are you going to do it?

### Step 5: Pray

Once you have finished writing the plan, take time to pray again. Ask God to help you complete the project and to multiply the results. Pray that His name may be glorified. During the next week or two while you are preparing for your project, you should be praying that God would help you with the project.

### Step 6: Do the Project

The next step is to do the project that you planned. Start the day with prayer and dedicate your efforts to God. Remember that you are doing this project to demonstrate God’s love to your community. Try to maintain an attitude that matches this goal.

### Step 7: Evaluate and Report

The final step is to report and evaluate. Why do we need to evaluate? Because it helps us to learn. We can think about what we did well and what we can do to improve next time. It doesn’t need to be a long process; you can just take a few minutes to discuss these questions:

- What went well?
- What didn’t go well?
- What improvements could you make to the plan?
- Was the response as you intended? If not, why not?
- Was God glorified?

The trainer has a report form for you. Why do we do a report? In Mark 6:30, we see that the disciples reported to Jesus all that they had done. We report as a matter of faithfulness and gratitude to those that have taught us and prepared materials and trainers for us. Reporting gives you the opportunity to share what you did and gives testimony to how God used your efforts. It also gives the trainers the opportunity to see if there were any problems and find ways to better serve you in the future.