

**TRUTH
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TRANSFORMATION**

MODULE ONE



INTRODUCTION TO WHOLISTIC MINISTRY

STUDENT GUIDE

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This program [2] was developed and implemented during my years of employment with Food for the Hungry. The gracious, supportive staff provided funding for me to test ideas, gather data, and create a strong, sustainable program. Thank you for believing in me and supporting this work.

In this first module, I borrowed heavily from Bob and Darrow's materials, specifically "Development Ethic" by Darrow Miller and "Leadership Development Training Program" by Bob Moffitt. In addition, some ideas for presenting the materials originated from Mark Wilson. The River Crossing story found in Lesson 8 was also taken from another source; however, I am unfortunately unable to locate the original author to give proper credit.

I am immensely grateful to those I worked 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 it's their encouragement that kept me going 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 learned how and what to teach. They patiently tried to understand—and even teach—ideas that we later realized were too complicated for their context. Yet God moved those communities out of poverty despite our failures, an endless reminder that this program was never 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 precious husband who selflessly gave up his own ministry to work together with me on this program. Without him and the many sacrifices he has made through the years, none of this would have been possible. You are the wind beneath my wings. I love you!

Student Guide

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Lesson 1: The Whole Story

1.1 Role Play: Adam and Eve

“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: Yeah, 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 . . .

Lesson 1: The Whole Story

1.2 Discussion Guide

The Beginning

Based on what we learn in Genesis 1-2, 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?

The Fall

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?

- 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?

The Mission

- ABRAHAM - Read Genesis 12:1-3. In this section God raises up Abraham and blesses him. Why does he bless Abraham?

MOSES

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

- Read Deut 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?

2 Chronicles 7:14

- Who does God call on to humble themselves and pray?
- What did God say would happen if they were obedient?

The Cross

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

The Return

Read Revelation Rev 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?

Lesson 2: Humans Are Important to God

2.1 Discussion Guide

Made in the Image of God

Read Genesis 1:26-27

- 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?

Reflection

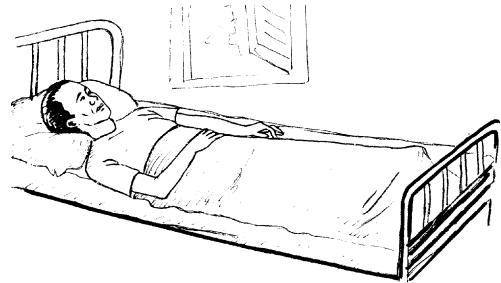
- Who are some of the people who are typically undervalued?
- What are some ways that we can demonstrate to people that they are important to God?

Lesson 3: Love God and Love Our Neighbor

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 (PSP – Poor Sick Person) is ill and in bed. A visitor, a Christian evangelist (EV) on a door-to-door 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)

Lesson 3: Love God and Love Our Neighbor

3.2 Discussion Guide

Read the following verses.

- *Matthew 22:36-40*
- *Mark 12:28-31,33*
- *Luke 10:27*
- *Matthew 7:12*
- *Romans 13:9*
- *Galatians 5:14*

What are the similarities and differences in these six passages?

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

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

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

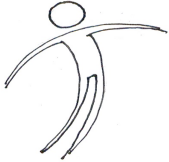

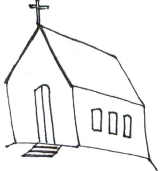

Lesson 4: Luke 2:52

4.1 Discussion Guide

1. Did Jesus' growth happen immediately, or was it a process over time?
2. What were the physical/material 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?)
3. Did Jesus have the resources necessary to fulfill God's purpose for Him? Why or why not?
4. What amount of wealth is necessary to reach God's intentions?
5. Jesus grew in four areas. Can we help others grow in these areas? How?
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?

Lesson 4: Luke 2:52

4.2 Growth Chart

Context For Growth	Areas of Jesus' Growth			
	Wisdom	Physical	Spiritual	Social
Self 				
Family 				
Church 				
Community 				

Lesson 5: God wants the Church to Help

5.1 Case Studies

Story 1 – Saris for the poor

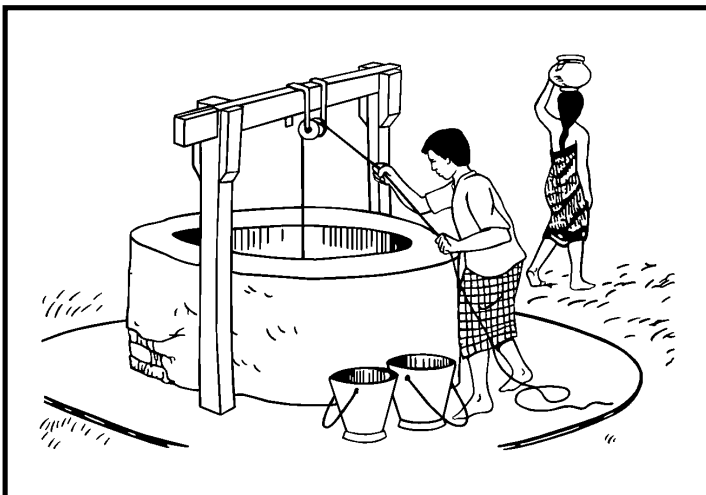
The church members in this church considered themselves an oppressed religious minority. They were fearful of ministering outside the Christian community. After learning that they should demonstrate Christ's love to the entire community, the pastor encouraged the women of the church to investigate community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



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.

Discuss

- 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?

Lesson 5: God wants the Church to Help

5.2 Ways to Help

Need	Ways that the Church can help
Hungry 	
Thirsty 	
Naked 	
Lack of Shelter 	
Sick 	
Imprison 	

Lesson 6: What are some needs we can help with?

6.1 Pastor Wong

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 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!”

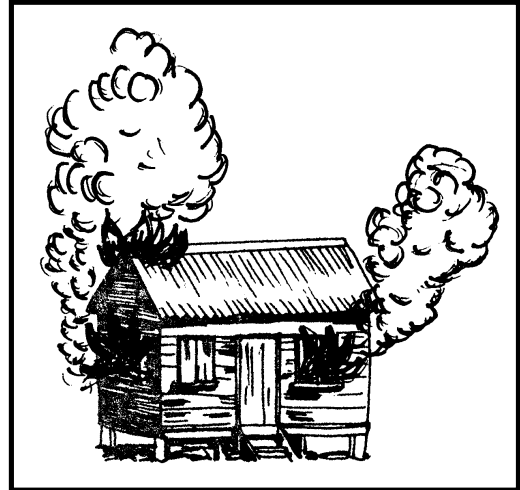
Wong heard a rooster crow. His wife coughed and stirred on the other side of the curtain. He was sitting at the table, but his lamp had gone out. It was becoming light. Wong looked around for Jesus, but didn’t see Him. He wondered, “Did I have a dream? Was it a vision?” He didn’t know, but Wong did know 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.

Lesson 6: What are some needs we can help with?

6.2 Case Study – Jose and Maria

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?



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

- People
- Materials
- Facilities

Lesson 8: Understanding How to Help

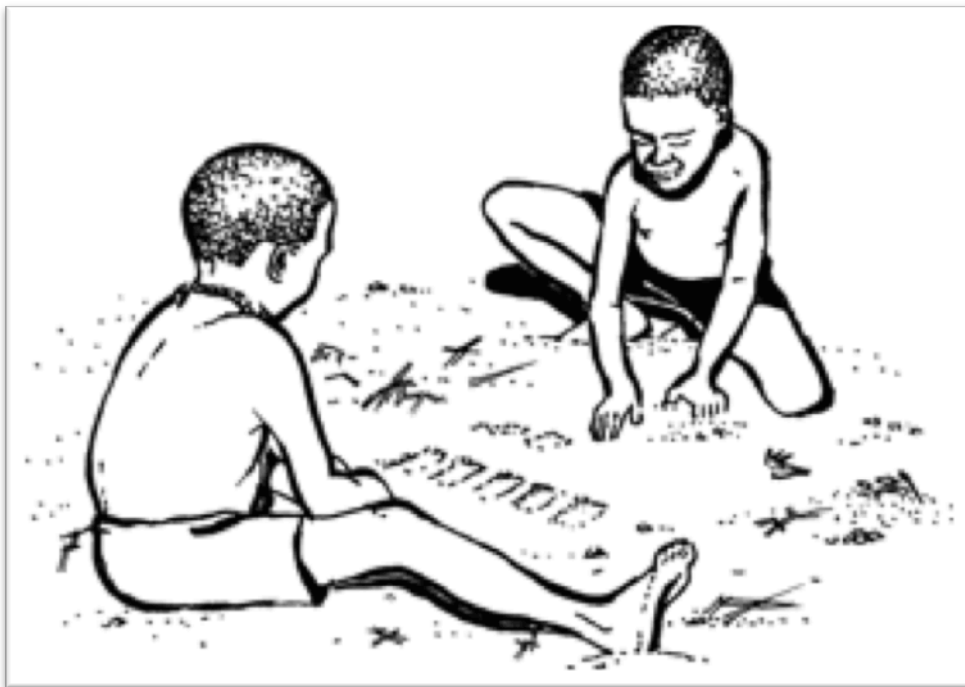
8.1 Case Study

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.

In small groups discuss

What are some of the needs that this family has?

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



Lesson 9: Acts of Love

9.1 Discussion Guide

Done through God's strength

Look at John 15:1-8

- How much can we do by ourselves?
- How do we bear much fruit?
- 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?
- How can we trust in God's strength during these projects?

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?

Lesson 10: Seed Project Planning

10.1 Planning Forms

	WHAT	WHO RESPONSIBLE	TME
RESOURCES			
PEOPLE INVOLVED			
BENEFICIARIES			
PERMISSION			
PRAYER			

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.

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MODULE TWO



KINGDOM OF GOD

STUDENT GUIDE

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Lesson 2: Kingdom Communities

2.1 Community Stories

A man in India went to visit a village where he had been working. He asked the village women what their community would look like if Jesus were the leader of the village. Umrai, one of the more outspoken women, described a village where there was unity and solidarity. She knew Jesus was not honored by how her village was divided. Each family lived only for itself. Because of her reply, the group of village women formed a health committee and a self-help group. The fourteen women in the self-help group began to meet regularly and with great enthusiasm. Group members collected small amounts of individual savings into a group account and they began to solve community problems together. Umrai became the president of the committee and used her leadership gifts to plan and to mobilize the village to do the kinds of things Jesus would do if He were the leader.

Ladies from a Bible study in Uganda decided to serve their village as Jesus would serve. They carefully planned their first project: cleaning garbage from around a local bar. Two of the women courageously entered the bar. (Usually, the only women who go into a bar are the prostitutes.) They asked permission to clean up the garbage. The surprised owners laughed, but agreed. The women mobilized the community, with many people volunteering. The group dug two pits: one for biodegradable garbage and the other for non-biodegradable materials. When bar patrons saw others cleaning up their trash, they helped. To the delight of the community, the bar owners continued to keep the area clean.

Encouraged, the woman decided to build nine fuel-efficient stoves for local families and to provide water storage pots for needy people. Next, the Bible study group undertook a larger project: a community market. The village women typically walk many hours, carrying their vegetables and goods to far away markets. A nearby market would allow them to generate income while keeping them close to their families, community, and gardens. Land was donated, but it was too steep to begin to build the market. The women from the Bible study prayed and the highway workers who were repairing a road nearby willingly came and bulldozed the market property level at no cost. With God's help the small group of rural Christian women discovered and collect resources, saved money, solved dilemmas, and built a community market. Their spiritual lives grew as they served others on behalf of Jesus.

Discuss:

- What happened in each of the stories?
- Because of the people in the stories, did the communities move closer to how it would be if everyone lived as Jesus intended? Why?
- What were some of the activities the groups in the stories did?
- How could you do the same in your community?

Lesson 3: Kingdom Values

2.2 Kingdom Values Worksheet

Value	Scripture	Our Culture/ Tradition	God's Kingdom
How we should act as a Husband	Colossians 3:21 1 Peter 3:7 Ephesians 5:25,28,33		
How we should act as a Wife	Genesis 2:18 Ephesians 5:22- 24,33		
How we should treat children	Psalms 127:3 Ephesians 6:4		
How to treat people	Matthew 22:36-40 Luke 10:25-37		
How to treat enemies	Luke 6:27-31		
Our attitude to work	Colossians 3:22-4:1 Ephesians 6:7-8		
Our attitude to the environment	Psalms 24:1 Gen 1:28-30 Genesis 2:15		
The most important thing	Matthew 6:25-34 Matthew 22:36-40		
Our attitude to death and dying	John 11:25-26 Hebrews 2:14-15 Revelation 1:17-18		
Our attitude to suffering	Luke 6:22-23 2 Corinthians 1:8- 11		

Lesson 4: Kingdom Values & Work

4.1 Small Group Discussion Guide

Look at the following verses. What do these verses teach us about work? In small groups summarize in one sentence.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12
- Proverbs 10:4
- Proverbs 19:15
- Proverbs 21:25

What do you think these verses teach about how we should do work?

- 1 Corinthians 10:31
- Colossians 3:23-

Lesson 5: Building God's Kingdom

5.1 One Family's Impact

One Christian Family Makes a Difference

Four years ago when the evangelist moved to this area the whole community was Hindu. The village was located in the Himalayas at 1,000 ft. above sea level. A few kilometers away from the village was a tea plantation. This provided the main work for the people in the village. However, the wages were so low that the people struggled to survive even with a job.

The village was made up of about twenty-five run-down, poorly-constructed wood homes with tin roofs. There were no latrines in the village. Because it was so high it was very cold; however, the children were barefoot and had swollen stomachs.

Each house was on a small plot of land. The cooking was done in a separate little smoke-filled cooking shack over an open fire, with the pot balanced on three stones. There were a few chickens running in and out of the houses and the compounds were dirty.

The nearest school was two kilometers away. It was too far for the children to walk daily and they had work to do around the home. Therefore, most of the children did not attend school. Many adults could not read or write, therefore they were always being taken advantage of by those in other villages who could.

There were very few gardens because the nearest water was a reservoir two kilometers away. It was hard enough to bring water for drinking and washing, let alone for watering gardens. There once was a pipeline from this reservoir, but it no longer worked and the people hadn't done anything about getting it repaired.

Rain was sporadic except for the one growing season when there was normally enough rain to get their main crop of rice. There was not enough room or time to raise vegetables. If they were lucky they could harvest enough rice to get them through until the next harvest.

The people were Hindu, therefore they worshipped many different gods. There are over one million gods, which Hindus must appease and worship. The village had many little idols to the Hindu gods. Each time the villagers ate they would drop some food on the ground for the wandering spirits.

There was a sense of defeat and hopelessness. Their only hope was that maybe in the next life they would be reincarnated into a better situation. But there was also the chance that if they made the gods unhappy, they could be reincarnated as a rat or a dog. They felt trapped, with no way out and no way to better themselves.

Lepcha was an evangelist who moved to this area. He studied to learn the basics about helping others improve their health in a one-month course. Once he completed the course he moved with his family to the village so they could live there to help their neighbors by sharing what they had learned. They had a very clean compound with a cooking house that had a raised fireplace, making cooking easier and using less fire wood. They had a small coop to keep their chickens. They planted a small vegetable garden,

which improved their children's nutrition. They had an outside latrine and their children didn't seem to have worms or diarrhea as often as other children in the village.

Lepcha made a rain collection jar which he put under the gutters they installed on their tin roof to collect water when the sporadic rains came. Others copied this idea, and now when it rains, they too have water.

They got the people in the community to work together to lay a pipeline from the reservoir to the village, and now the villagers have plenty of water, even enough to water their new vegetable gardens. Many of the people have copied the chicken houses and have built latrines that don't smell or have flies.

When Lepcha's family came they began to teach adults and children who wanted to learn how to read and write. They started by teaching children and teenagers how to read. Today, the village has its own school for children up through fourth grade.

Today there is a small church building because now twenty-three of the twenty-five families have a personal relationship with Christ. All of this is because this one family shared Christ with their words and their deeds.

The people have a sense of accomplishment, and they see that they can live healthy lives because one family cared enough to come and share their life with others.

This same story is being told time after time in villages in northern India and eastern Nepal. Today the same things are happening in 120 villages in the area. People's lives are changed physically. But the villages are also being changed spiritually as 107 home fellowships have been started, with the largest twelve having 200 members.

The Indian pastors have now formed their own denomination called Agape Church, which the majority of these new churches will join. When one Christian family, like the Lepchas, has a vision to see their community changed, mighty things can happen for God if they are seeking God's will and then are willing to act on the vision that God has given them. Some of the family models have changed to church-based models by training key people in the churches. It is our prayer that these will become community-based models in the future.

- What were some of the changes that Lepcha brought to the community? Look again at the story and make a list under the headings social, spiritual, mental and physical.
- How did he bring these changes? Who did he start with? *His family*
- How is the community different because of Lepcha?
- How can you be like Lepcha in your community?

Lesson 5: Building God's Kingdom

5.2 How to Be a Kingdom Builder

1. Start with yourself

The first step in seeing God's Kingdom built in your life, in your family, in your church, in your community, and in the world is to examine yourself. Are you willing to be used by God? Are you willing to be obedient to God in every area of your life? What are one or two things that you could work on improving this week?

2. Teach and encourage your family

As you start to apply God's Kingdom to every part of your life you need to start to encourage your family to do the same. As we read, we should be teaching our families at all times (Deut. 6:7) no matter what we are doing. Look for ways to teach your family by what you do, through talking to them, and by looking for ways to help them to start serving others as well.

Remember the things you committed to do in the lesson in each of the four areas to also help your family to grow.

3. Ask God to use you to impact others

Start praying and asking God to help you to impact others. Look for opportunities. As you see people in need, ask God to show you how you can help those people.

God is more than willing to help us to build His Kingdom. He will reveal to us at the right time, the right way to help.

4. Serve Others

Get involved in an Act of Love and find other ways to serve. Even if you feel like you are not able to do much, you should still use all the talents God has given you to serve. As you serve, you will start to grow and will find you are able to do more and more.

Lesson 8: Next Steps

8.1 Acts of Love 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 to show God's love. Look at some of the ideas that you listed in Lesson 1 and agree on what you feel God is leading you to do.

Once you have selected a topic, make sure that 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 need to 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

Once you have planned everything that needs to be done, you can write your plan in date order so that you know who is responsible for doing what by when. Choose one person to be the project leader. That person is responsible for contacting the people on the day before they need to complete their task to find out if it is being done, if there are any problems, and if they need any help.

Step 5: Pray

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

Step 6: Do the Act of Love

The next step is to do the Act of Love that you planned. Start the day with prayer and dedicate your efforts to God. Remember that you are doing this 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 can we improve on 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 next time?
- 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 give testimony to how God⁸ used your efforts. It also gives the trainers the opportunity to see if there were any problems and to be able to serve you better in the future.