

This 6 part group discussion guide is designed to walk you through the video documentary found on Youtube. One member of your group can play the videos, and everyone can participate in the discussion, following along with this guide.

To search Youtube for the videos, enter Life.Church.tv Helping Without Hurting.

Or enter this link to the series in your browser:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a339VZRE3CM&list=PLXvTERtQ\\_HV943FtLVKf-AOBz7uY7u6-g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a339VZRE3CM&list=PLXvTERtQ_HV943FtLVKf-AOBz7uY7u6-g)



## Video 1: Reconsidering the Meaning of Poverty

**Discuss:** What is poverty?

**Watch** the video and **fill in the blanks** below:

- How do most North Americans define poverty?
  - In \_\_\_\_\_ terms
  - As a lack of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_.
- The way that we define poverty determines the \_\_\_\_\_ we use to alleviate poverty.
- Treating \_\_\_\_\_ rather than underlying \_\_\_\_\_ can actually lead to your death.
- At that point, it doesn't matter how much the doctor loves you.
- If the doctor \_\_\_\_\_ what's wrong with you, you won't get better, and you might get worse.
- Our solutions tend towards providing \_\_\_\_\_ towards people.
- How do poor people describe poverty?
  - In \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ terms
- God is a \_\_\_\_\_ being.
- 4 Key relationships:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
- When we experience these relationships in the way that God intended, we experience \_\_\_\_\_ in the way that God intended.
- After the fall, these relationships were broken.

## **Read**

- Read Romans 5:6–11. To what extent do you embrace the message of the cross: God Almighty died for you while you were still His “enemy”? How worthy are you of God's love expressed through Jesus Christ?

## **Discuss**

- Reflect on your relationships with God, self, others, and the rest of creation.
- Think about the approach of your church or organization to materially poor people. Is there any evidence of a God complex?
- To what degree do you have a “material definition of poverty?” How has this influenced the way that you have approached ministry to the poor? What harm might this have done?
- To what degree might you be an “evangelical gnostic?”

## **Practice**

- List specific things that you would like to improve in the four key relationships.

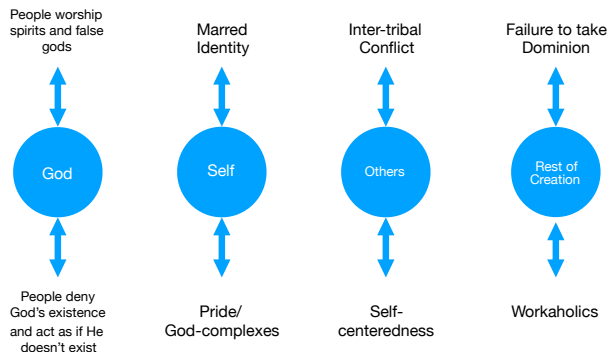
## **This Week's Challenge**

- What are some practical steps you can take to have a personal interaction with God today?
- What are some areas in your life that you are struggling to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

## Video 2: Seeing God at Work

**Watch** the video and **fill in the blanks** below:

- While economists are reducing human beings to being \_\_\_\_\_, our churches are reducing human beings to being \_\_\_\_\_.
- Mainstream Society
  - Denies God's existence or acts as if He's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Has a broken relationship with \_\_\_\_\_, not typically \_\_\_\_\_, but known for being workaholics.
  - Notorious for its \_\_\_\_\_ - centeredness .
  - Has an inflated sense of pride or superiority, called a, "\_\_\_\_\_ complex."
- The way that we are broken bubbles up differently than the way materially poor people are broken.
- In our culture, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ for being a workaholic.
- As they become more \_\_\_\_\_, we become more proud.
- We must walk \_\_\_\_\_ with the material poor.



- *Poverty alleviation* is about reconciling relationships.
  - A process in which people - both the materially poor and non-poor - move closer to living in right relationship with God, self, others, and the rest of creation.

## **Read**

- When you get sick, what do you do? Now read 2 Chronicles 16:7–9, 12 and Psalm 20:7. What was Asa's sin? One of the features of the modern worldview is an unbiblical separation between the spiritual and the physical realms. Like Asa, we tend to rely on science—medicine, technology, machines, power, etc.—to solve our problems and forget to call on the one who created and upholds the universe. Are you like Asa? How does your worldview need to be transformed?

## **Discuss**

- In what ways do you suffer from a “god-complex,” the belief that you are superior to others and are well-positioned to determine what is best for them? If you have this problem, what specific steps can you take to change this?
- Think about the approach of your church or your ministry to materially poor people. Is there any evidence of a god-complex?

### Video 3: Understanding why Good Intentions are not Enough

**Watch** the video and **fill in the blanks** below:

- Relief, Rehabilitation, and Development
  - Most people you will work with, either at home or abroad, are actually not coming out of a \_\_\_\_\_. They don't need relief or rehabilitation. They're simply at some level, and they need you to \_\_\_\_\_ with them across \_\_\_\_\_, in ways that we would call developmental.
- *Paternalism* - habitually doing for people, and providing for people, things they can \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for themselves.
- The key dynamic in developing work is promoting an \_\_\_\_\_ process.
- The process that's being used is at least as important as the \_\_\_\_\_ or project itself.

### **Discuss**

- What are your thoughts on the toothpick house example?
- Where have you personally witness paternalism at work in the world?

### **This Week's Challenge**

- Think of an individual you know who you could walk with across time. If you can't think of anyone, where could you meet someone to begin a journey together?
- How could you transform the ministries you are a part of to become more about the process than the project?

## Video 4: Joining God's Work

**Watch** the video and **fill in the blanks** below:

- No one is so poor that they have \_\_\_\_\_ to bring.
- Rather than coming in and trying to establish \_\_\_\_\_ as the innovators in a situation, we go in and we seek, "Who are the innovators in this situation?"
- Needs-based development focusses on the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the life of a person or community.
- Needs-based development assumes that solutions and resources come from \_\_\_\_\_ the individual or community
- However, our goal is to get them to *steward* the physical, social, and spiritual resources that God has already given them.
- Asset-based development focusses on the skills, capabilities, and \_\_\_\_\_ of the person or community
- The starting point is to focus on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that they already have.
- Having people participate in stewarding their gifts and resources, having people participate in the planning of how to use those resources, having people execute, is a valid end in it's own right.

## **Read**

- What does Matthew 25:14-30 have to say about stewardship?

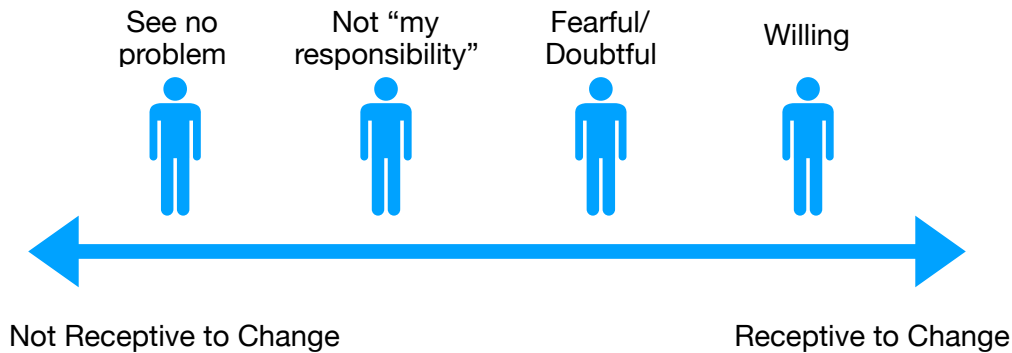
## **Discuss**

- What are some gifts and talents that God has given you?
- Think of someone you are close to. What gifts and talents has God given them?
- Think of an individual you are trying to reach with the love of God. What gifts and talents has God given them?
- How can you better use your gifts and talents for God's service?
- How can you help those around you to use their God given talents and abilities instead of burying them in the ground?

## Video 5: Fostering Change

**Watch** the video and **fill in the blanks** below:

- People cannot experience lasting change without the power of the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- All change tends to start out with people's \_\_\_\_\_ experience.
- Three basic triggers to change:
  - Recent \_\_\_\_\_
  - A \_\_\_\_\_ becoming so overwhelming that they want to pursue change
  - The introduction to a \_\_\_\_\_ way of doing or seeing that could improve their lives
- One of the primary features of poverty is lack of access to social networks
- What we need is a relational approach to poverty alleviation
- If a person is not interested in \_\_\_\_\_, you can't make that happen for them.



## **This Week's Challenge**

- Consider your community, city, or region. How might the economic, social, religious, and political systems be unjust and oppressive to some people?
- If you are able, ask several materially poor people or people who are ethnic minorities (e.g., Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics in the Southwestern part of the United States) to share their perspective on this with you. Spend some time really listening to them and considering what they have to say.
- Then ask: is there anything you or your church could do to make these systems more just?

## **Video 6: Moving Forward**

**Watch** the video and **fill in the blanks** below:

- There is a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ that people with comfortable lifestyles do not understand.
- A lot of times people are defined by their \_\_\_\_\_.
- The goal is to foster \_\_\_\_\_.
- Role of suburban churches for development in North American:
  - Pray
  - Provide money for staff salary and expenses
  - Offer words of encouragement
  - Help conduct and pay for asset-mapping
  - Provide jobs to community residents
  - Link residents to your networks
  - Serve on organization's board
  - Provide counsel when asked
- We can support the work of God through local churches and ministries around the world
- Your role is to \_\_\_\_\_ the churches and ministries that God has already placed there.
- Principles for healthy partnerships:
  - Relationship focus
  - Interdependence
  - Shared Control
  - Skin in the game

The most important thing:

The first step that the North American church needs to make is \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Discuss**

- Think about your church's ministries, parachurch organizations, and missions efforts. Do they include a clear, verbal articulation of the gospel? If not, what are some specific things that could be done to improve this?
- Again, think about your church's ministries and mission efforts. Are they about people and processes or about projects and products?

## **This Week's Challenge**

- List some specific things that you could do to improve these initiatives.
- In your own words, what was the low point of this video series?
- In your own words, what was the high point of this video series?
- What is one specific thing from this entire series that you will be applying to your life from now on?