



**CHANGED  
FOR LIFE**

# GLOBAL INJUSTICES

Session Three: Before the Trip

**LEADER/TEAM**

MATERIALS AND HANDOUTS

Kurt Ver Beek, JoAnn Van Engen, David Livermore, Lisa Van Engen

# Session Three: Before the Trip

## GLOBAL INJUSTICES

### Goal

- ✦ Participants will grow in their awareness of the global realities of poverty and injustice.
- ✦ Participants will recognize their place as part of the global church.
- ✦ Participants will be able to name at least five things about the culture and history of the place they are traveling to.

### Prepare

- ✦ Read through Session 3.
- ✦ Watch the Session 3 Video.
- ✦ Make copies of Session 3 Handouts.
- ✦ Ask your hosts (or sending agency staff that you are working with) for a brief description of your destination. (*Operation World* is a great resource for supplementing this information. It includes geography, economy, politics, and religion statistics of the nations of the world, as well as challenges for prayer.)

Before the session, research and fill out the chart on Handout 3.3. Participants will be filling out their own version during your discussion.

### Materials

- ✦ Handouts for Session 3 (paper or electronic)
- ✦ Video for Session 3
- ✦ Computer or projector for watching videos
- ✦ Newsprint or white board and markers
- ✦ Pens and pencils
- ✦ Bible

## OPEN

Time: 10 minutes

By now your team members will be looking forward to connecting with each other when they first arrive for your session together. If possible, including coffee and refreshments at the beginning of your gathering time will encourage community building and will add warmth to your sessions.

When everyone has arrived, begin your session together by praying that you and your team might grow in global consciousness before you go on the trip, during the trip, and long after.

After the prayer, explain that you're going to explore how much your group knows about the world. Divide participants into two teams for a challenging round of World Trivia (See Handout 3-1). You can either have the teams work through the quiz and then report their answers, or you can play "game-show" style, inviting each team to send up a representative (or two). When you read a question, the first representative to raise his or her hand and answer the question correctly earns a point for the team.

The answers to the trivia quiz are in the Answer Key.

After the game, compliment the group on their world knowledge. Share that trivia can be fun, but it's also so important. While knowing which country eats the most cheese might not be important, a basic awareness of global issues and of how North Americans might be viewed is an important step in serving as learners.

## EXPLORE

Time: 25 minutes

Play the session 3 video for the team; its content will increase your group's sensitivity to global realities even more.

After the video, have team members work with a partner to respond to the questions on Handout 3.2. Give partners about 5 minutes to work. Then call the team back together and listen to each report, taking time to respond if appropriate.

Comment that it's true that many people in the world have some wrong perceptions about Americans and Canadians. But it's also true that Americans and Canadians often don't know much about other countries! Ask the group to rejoin the team they worked with earlier for the

Trivia Challenge. Give each team a sheet of newsprint or poster board and a marker. Challenge them to brainstorm together a list of things they know about the country or community you plan to visit together.

After 5 minutes or so, ask the two teams to take turns hanging their sheet on the wall and explaining what they've listed. Congratulate the team on knowing as much as they do! Then ask them to look at Handout 3.4. See how many of the facts on this sheet they can fill in together. You'll want to make sure you complete this list ahead of time (see [Operation World](#), a great resource that includes geography, economy, politics, and religion statistics).

## CONNECT

Time: 15 Minutes

As a group, read through the content of the list of personal challenges on Handout 3.5. Invite participants to take turns reading a challenge. Invite some reactions. What looks especially appealing on this list? Daunting? Helpful? If you've read any of the books on the list or completed any of the challenges, describe your reactions and experiences to the group. Then ask group members to prayerfully select three of the challenges to pursue during the preparation for this short-term mission trip and to circle them on the list.

## CLOSE

10 minutes

Close by praying together for the country or community you will be visiting. Offer to God some of the concerns, misperceptions, and issues mentioned in this session. Pray for your goals, the people you will be working alongside, and your team.

### Option: Journal

If you are using the journal activity, give team members time to jot down a few sentence starters again today. If you have time, you may also want to give them time to begin writing. Challenge the group to list their weekly personal goals for preparation.

Sentences starters you might use:

**The things that surprised me most from the World Trivia game and the video were . . .**

**How might I adjust my goals having gained this new knowledge . . .**

**This week I will pray that . . .**

### **Option: Information**

Encourage the group to continue to contribute to the information table and to share online discoveries with one another via e-mail links. If there is time, give the members of the team the opportunity to share some of the things they have discovered as part of their preparation.



# HANDOUT SESSION 3.1

## World Trivia Game

1. Which country produces the most calculators and TV sets in the world?
  - a. Japan
  - b. United States
  - c. China
  - d. Taiwan
2. Which country first introduced income tax?
  - a. United States
  - b. France
  - c. Italy
  - d. Germany
3. Which country has the largest elementary school in the world?
  - a. China
  - b. Philippines
  - c. Brazil
  - d. India
4. Each year, the United States spends more on this item than nearly half the world spends on all goods combined:
  - a. gasoline
  - b. food
  - c. trash bags
  - d. housing
5. What is the only country in the world where you can see the sun rise on the Atlantic and set on the Pacific from the same spot?
  - a. Panama
  - b. Honduras
  - c. Greenland
  - d. Hawaii

6. Which is the closest estimate to the number of countries in the world?

- a. 75
- b. 120
- c. 200
- d. 400

7. What percentage of Christians live outside the United States?

- a. 10%
- b. 25%
- c. 50%
- d. 70%

8. The people of what country eat the most cheese?

- a. Italy
- b. United States
- c. France
- d. Micronesia

9. In which country do people eat a soup made of beets?

- a. Ukraine
- b. Canada
- c. Hungary
- d. Korea

10. How much is Mexico City sinking each year?

- a. 1 inch
- b. 3 inches
- c. 6 inches
- d. 13 inches

# ANSWER KEY

## World Trivia Game

1. a. Japan
2. c. Italy
3. b. Philippines
4. c. trash bags
5. a. Panama
6. c. 200
7. d. 70%
8. c. France
9. a. Ukraine
10. c. 6 inches





# HANDOUT SESSION 3.2

## Video Response

### Response

1. What one fact in the video surprised you most?
2. What role do we as believers have in responding to economic discrepancies and global injustices?
3. In response to assumptions people who live in the host location might have about you, how can your group best “live a different story”?
4. How can we be Christ to the people we work with on our trip while also being sensitive to possible preconceived notions?
5. How will your team encourage sustainable change?

# HANDOUT SESSION 3.3

## What We Know About Our Host

Host Country/Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Capital: \_\_\_\_\_

Spoken Languages: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic Groups: \_\_\_\_\_

Economy/ Income Level Per Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Religions Practiced: \_\_\_\_\_

Literacy Rates: \_\_\_\_\_

Host Village/City: \_\_\_\_\_

Population of Village/City: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Source of Income: \_\_\_\_\_

Housing: \_\_\_\_\_

Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

Food: \_\_\_\_\_

Clothing: \_\_\_\_\_

Places of Worship: \_\_\_\_\_

History of Religious Persecution: \_\_\_\_\_

Key Historic Moments: \_\_\_\_\_

Something Unique to Host Country/Community: \_\_\_\_\_

## HANDOUT SESSION 3.5

### Personal Challenges

Identify two or three ways you can grow your global consciousness between now and when you leave on your trip. The following are some suggestions to increase global consciousness:

- ✦ **Read a book written by an author of a nationality other than your own.** It may be the most helpful to find one written by someone from the country or community you are going to. If this isn't an option, some great books that would expand your overall global consciousness are included in the list below.
- ✦ **Consider forming a book club around one of the suggested readings.**
- ✦ **Follow an international news story between now and when you leave for your trip, daily praying for the situation and the individuals involved.**
- ✦ **Contact an international organization that works in the area where you're going to learn more about their ministry in that country.**
- ✦ **Attend a talk on something international or related to the struggles of your mission trip country or community.**
- ✦ **Connect with someone local who grew up in or has connections with the country or community your group will visit.**
- ✦ **Try the interactive activity ["Your Coffee Dollar"](#).**
- ✦ **Consider holding a documentary film screening.** (See list below)
- ✦ **Organize a story time** around one of the featured books at [Kids Can Press](#), a collection of books to help families become better global citizens.
- ✦ **Consider reading news events** from different sources to see various perspectives.

**Ideas of your own:**

# SUGGESTED READING LIST

## **Fiction**

- ✦ *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese
- ✦ *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- ✦ *Letters from Birmingham Jail* by Martin Luther King Jr.
- ✦ *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
- ✦ *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie
- ✦ *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez
- ✦ *On the Road to Freedom: A Guided Tour of the Civil Rights Trail* by Charles E. Cobb
- ✦ *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
- ✦ *The Color of Water* by James McBride
- ✦ *The Dark Child* by Camara Laye
- ✦ *The Famished Road* by Ben Okri
- ✦ *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy
- ✦ *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- ✦ *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- ✦ *The Translator: A Tribesman's Memoir of Darfur* by Hari Daoud
- ✦ *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

## Nonfiction

- ✦ *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* by Ruby K. Payne
- ✦ *A Long Way Gone* by Ismael Beah
- ✦ *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo
- ✦ *Cultural Intelligence: Improving Your CQ to Engage Our Multicultural World* by David Livermore
- ✦ *Deep Justice in a Broken World* by Chap Clark and Kara Powell
- ✦ *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
- ✦ *A Path Appears* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
- ✦ *Kisses from Katie* by Katie Davis
- ✦ *Love Is the Final Fight* by John M. Perkins
- ✦ *Not on Our Watch* by Don Cheadle and John Prendergast
- ✦ *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paulo Friere
- ✦ *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi
- ✦ *Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing Short-term Mission with Cultural Intelligence* by David Livermore
- ✦ *The Blue Sweater* by Jacqueline Novogratz
- ✦ *The Hole in Our Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us?* by Richard Stearns
- ✦ *The Irresistible Revolution* by Shane Claiborne
- ✦ *The Motorcycle Diaries: Notes on a Latin American Journey* by Che Guevara
- ✦ *The Road of Lost Innocence: The True Story of a Cambodian Heroine* by Somaly Mam
- ✦ *The Social Justice Handbook* by Mae Elise Cannon
- ✦ *The Working Poor: Invisible in America* by David K. Shipler
- ✦ *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson
- ✦ *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup
- ✦ *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor* by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett

## Documentary Films

- ✦ **58: The Film** (ending extreme poverty)  
<http://www.live58.org/church/getting-started>  
<http://www.live58.org/church/getting-started>
- ✦ **A Place at the Table** (hunger in America)  
<http://www.bread.org/ol/2013/a-place-at-the-table/>  
<http://www.bread.org/ol/2013/a-place-at-the-table/>
- ✦ **Born into Brothels** (sex trafficking in Calcutta)  
<http://www.kids-with-cameras.org/bornintobrothels/>  
<http://www.kids-with-cameras.org/bornintobrothels/>
- ✦ **Girl Rising** (global girls' education)  
<http://www.girlrising.com/?id10x10=undefined>
- ✦ **A Path Appears** (global justice movement)  
<http://apathappears.org/film/>
- ✦ **Half the Sky** (four-part series from the book about global women's rights)  
<http://www.halftheskymovement.org/pages/film>  
<http://www.halftheskymovement.org/pages/film>
- ✦ **Freedom Riders** (civil rights in America)  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/freedomriders/>  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/freedomriders/>
- ✦ **Why Poverty** (offers short and long films about the roots of global poverty)  
<http://www.whypoverty.net/en/>

