



**CHANGED
FOR LIFE**

POVERTY IS A REALITY

Session Five: Before the Trip

LEADER/TEAM

MATERIALS AND HANDOUTS

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

Session Five: Before the Trip

POVERTY IS A REALITY

Goal

- ✦ Participants will learn about and be able to define global poverty.
- ✦ Participants will be able to give examples of the systems of injustice that perpetuate global poverty.
- ✦ Participants will begin to learn how they can work to address global poverty after they return home from their mission experience.

Prepare

- ✦ Read through Session 5.
- ✦ Watch Session 5 Video.
- ✦ Make copies of Session 5 Handouts.
- ✦ Connect with your host or sending agency. Ask them to share the greatest challenges and requests they face in the area of material poverty. Share that as a team you are keeping them close in prayer.

Materials

- ✦ Handouts for Session 5 (paper or electronic)
- ✦ Video for Session 5
- ✦ Computer or projector for watching videos
- ✦ Newsprint or white board and markers
- ✦ Pens and pencils
- ✦ Bible

OPEN

Time: 10 minutes

You may want to add some articles, books, or a list of web links about poverty to your information table for today's session. As the STM team arrives, tell them that today's session will focus on poverty, and invite them to spend a little time exploring the resources you've provided. Give them time to connect with one another too.

Hang a sheet of newsprint or white board on your wall. At the top of the sheet print the words **POVERTY IS . . .** Invite team members to visit the sheet and jot down their thoughts about poverty—either through words or pictures.

When everyone has arrived, gather in your circle and pray that you and your group would grow in the knowledge of global inequalities and injustice. Ask that your hearts might be changed for life by the realities that you come face-to-face with on your mission trip.

After the prayer, look together at your *Poverty Is* sheet. Talk through some of the reflections and ideas that team members shared. Some of them may have been thinking about poverty close to home. Others may have been thinking in terms of global poverty. How might that have impacted what they wrote? Can poverty or brokenness extend beyond material needs?

Tell the team that today you'll explore together a little more deeply what poverty and hunger look like in our world. By the end of your session they may have new insights to add to your poverty definition sheet.

EXPLORE

Time: 30 minutes

Fifty million Americans live in poverty. Some of the people going on your trip might live in poverty themselves. But many North Americans, particularly those who are able to travel for mission trips, have very little real acquaintance with material poverty or hunger. The daily life circumstances of more than half of the world's people are difficult to imagine. Tell the group that to create some understanding and sensitivity to these realities, you're going to do an exercise together. Divide participants into nine different pairs or groups (fewer if your group is small).

Before your session, print out Handout 5.1 and cut the cards apart. Each pair or group should receive one card. Also give each pair or group a copy of Handout 5.2, an Income and Expenses Chart for Honduras.

Ask each pair or group to use their income card to jot down a daily budget for their fictional Honduran family using the data they've been provided. (If they have time, invite them to use more paper and plan a weekly budget as well.)

Give teams 5-10 minutes to work.

- ✦ Remind groups to factor in how many individuals are in their family.
- ✦ Food, housing, and water should be accounted for first.
- ✦ Encourage participants to think about how long it would take to save up for things like clothing or personal supplies on their budget.

When everyone seems to have completed the activity, have each group report on the decisions they made. After all teams have reported, spend some time with the group reflecting on the questions on Handout 5.3. Obviously this is just an exercise, but how did they respond to it? What did they learn about living in poverty?

Close the discussion by playing the video that accompanies this session, a combination of statistics and biblical truths that reinforce what the group has been discovering about poverty.

Handout 5.5 is a take-home sheet that the STM team can use to further study the Scripture passages noted in the video.

CONNECT

10 minutes

Tell the team that the host country or community you will be visiting faces challenges that the STM team will be partnering with them on. Distribute Handout 5.4, then tell group members some of the needs and requests you heard from your host this past week. Ask them to write those on the handout and to keep the list near them as a prayer reminder during the week to come.

Before team members leave the room today, encourage them to revisit the poverty definition sheet on your wall and to add some new words or phrases that come to mind now that they've experienced this session. For many, the budgeting exercise you did together in step 2 may have

been an eye-opening experience—as might the video contrasts and commands. Their comments may reflect their new vision.

CLOSE

Time: 10 minutes

Take time to pray together about the challenges the host community faces. Encourage the group to pray about their own poverty or brokenness, whether that be material, spiritual, or relational.

Option: Journal

This week challenge your team to continue their thinking about poverty and justice by journaling, using one or more sentence starters like these:

What affect does material poverty have on families?

In what areas of my life do I experience brokenness?

My prayer for our host country or community is . . .

Option: Information

Learning as much as possible about your host community or country before your visit continues to be a priority. Encourage team members to continue the information exchange and to be on the lookout for stories, videos, websites, novels, and other information in the week to come.

HANDOUT SESSION 5.1

FAMILY INCOME CARDS

Single mother with one child \$1.00	Single mother with two children \$1.00	Single mother with three children \$1.00
Two-parent household with one child \$2.00	Two-parent household with two children \$2.00	Two-parent household with three children \$2.00
Single person without children \$1.00	Married couple without children \$2.00	Orphan, living alone \$0.50

HANDOUT SESSION 5.2

INCOME AND EXPENSES IN HONDURAS

Annual median income in Honduras per capita: \$950

Average annual income per income group:

Highest 10%: \$12,000

Next 50%: \$2,500

Last 40%: \$400

Average daily income per group:

Highest 10%: \$35

Next 50%: \$8

Last 40%: \$1

As you plan the daily budget for the family you've been assigned (see family income card), you must choose one option from each category. If you have time, also grab some extra paper and plan a weekly budget

Food: *(Everyone in your family has to eat at least two meals per day)*

Homemade tortillas and beans (one meal) 0.15

Rice and beans from a dining hall (one meal) 0.25

Meat, vegetables, tortilla, cream (one meal) 1.00

Water *(per three people, per day)*

A public faucet 0.00

A faucet on the outside of the house 0.15

Water in all of the house 0.30

Energy *(per three people, per day)*

Firewood for cooking 0.15

Electricity for only one light 0.35

Electricity for light, cooking, and a refrigerator 1.00

Personal Items *(can you make it with only one change of clothing?)*

Bare feet	0.00
Sandals (\$5.00 each pair, change every three months)	0.05 per day
Shoes (\$20 each pair, change every six months)	0.10 per day
Skirt or pants, blouse or shirt (\$15.00, at least four per year)	0.15 per day
Soap and shampoo (\$6.00, at least six per year)	0.05 per day

Transportation

Walk (Remember that this limits your job hunting)	0.00
Bus	0.30 per day
Motorcycle	0.75 per day
Used Car (You may share)	2.50 per day
New Car (You may share)	7.50 per day

Housing *(You may share)*

House of cement block and tin roof	1.00 per day
House with two rooms	7.00 per day
House with four rooms	20.00 per day

MISCELLANEOUS

Improvement of Life (How much time would it take to save up for these?)

Sewing night classes	25.00
A used sewing machine	75.00
A used bicycle	30.00

Extras

Ice cream	0.35
Soda	0.35
Beer	0.50
Cigarettes	1.00
Movie	2.00
Dinner in a Restaurant	5.00

Luxuries

Someone to clean your house	3.00 per day
A cook (you can see if someone in the group would like to)	3.00 per day
Radio	30.00
Used television	80.00
Trip to Disney	1,500

Unexpected Expenses

Visit to a local healer	5.00
Visit to a doctor and prescription	25.00
Labor and delivery in the house with a midwife	10.00
Labor and delivery in the hospital with a doctor	20.00
Surgery for appendicitis	50.00



HANDOUT SESSION 5.3

Reflection on Budgeting Exercise

1. What did you find most difficult about this exercise?
2. Were you able to provide two meals for everyone in your family each day? What did you have to give up to do it?
3. What if someone in your family had gotten sick and you had to cover one of the unexpected expenses? Would you have been able to make ends meet with your income? What would your options be?
4. Imagine you got a job interview for a much better paying job. How likely do you think you would be to get the job if you can't afford professional clothing for the interview? What are your options?
5. For those groups who didn't have kids to consider in their budgets, how would your income affect your interest in having children? For those with kids, how might your income affect your desire to have more children?
6. How would your experience have been different if you had been in the highest-income group (\$35 a day) or middle-income group (\$8 a day) in Honduras?

HANDOUT SESSION 5.4

Prayer for Host Location

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

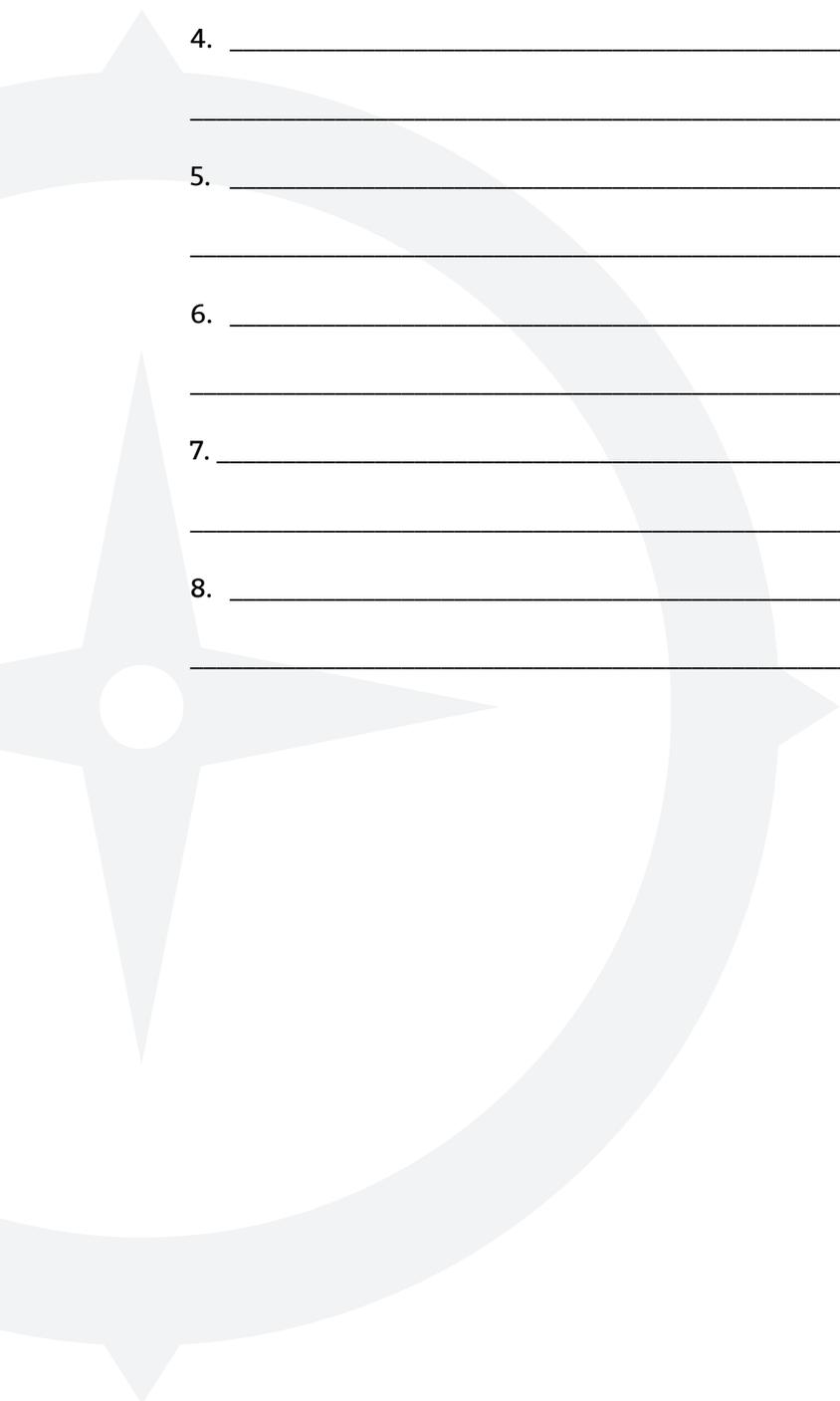
4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____



HANDOUT SESSION 5.5

Further Study of Bible Verses

Leviticus 26:6	Matthew 19:16-30	Luke 14:12-14
Malachi 2:5	Matthew 23:23	Luke 16:19-31
Isaiah 54:10	Matthew 25:31-40	Luke 19:1-10
Jeremiah 22:3	Luke 4:16-24	Acts 2:42-47
Amos 5:21-24	Luke 6:20-26	
Micah 6:8	Luke 10:25-37	

Select 5-10 of the following passages to read as a team. What do these passages tell us about

- God's heart?
- How God wants us to be in relationship with others? How can these passages inform how we relate to our hosts and our STM experience?

