



**CHANGED
FOR LIFE**

POVERTY & DEVELOPMENT

Session Six: Before the Trip

LEADER/TEAM

MATERIALS AND HANDOUTS

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

Session Six: Before the Trip

POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

Goal

- ✦ Participants will learn about how poverty is explained in the Bible.
- ✦ Participants will learn about how God asks Christians to address poverty.
- ✦ Participants will set goals for how they will live differently (in their worship, practice of the disciplines, and so on.) after the trip.

Prepare

- ✦ Read through Session 6.
- ✦ Watch the Session 6 Video.
- ✦ Make copies of Session 6 Handouts.
- ✦ Connect with your host or sending agency about development projects, partner organizations, and challenges they face to growth in the host location.

Materials

- ✦ Handouts for Session 6 (either paper or electronic)
- ✦ Video for session 6
- ✦ Computer or projector for watching video
- ✦ Newsprint or white board and markers
- ✦ Pens and pencils
- ✦ Bible

OPEN

Time: 10 minutes

Allow time for team members to build community as they arrive. When everyone has settled in, begin your session together by praying that the team might grow in understanding of the causes of and solutions to poverty before you go on the trip, during the trip, and long after. Pray that your team would be sensitive to your role ministering alongside your hosts. Pray for guidance to know how you might continue to support your hosts after you return home.

Have team members work in pairs to address these two questions:

- ✦ **Why do you think the country/area we are traveling to is considered materially poor?**
- ✦ **Do you think any of these reasons are unfair to those in the community?**

Come back together as a team and share some of the top reasons or ideas discussed.

Talk about how there are many theories as to why people live in poverty. We must fully understand the justice issues that surround poverty before we can help by addressing root issues.

EXPLORE

Time: 25 minutes

Play the Session 6 video, which talks about poverty and justice issues in relation to Scripture.

Discuss the questions on Handout 6.1

CONNECT

Time: 15 Minutes

Share with the team about development projects taking place in the host area. Talk about any partner organizations that work with your host group or sending agency. Break into groups of two or three and brainstorm ways you might be able to extend your connection with the host group after you return home. Think of questions you might want to ask during the trip. Consider how you can work alongside your hosts. Revise and refine your goals after your discussion. Ask the team to think about what steps need to be taken to meet these goals and who can support them in reaching their personal goals offer to hold them accountable.

CLOSE

Time: 20 minutes

Pray with your team about the work already being done in your host location. Pray for God to guide your team to work alongside your hosts. Pray for the host location's partner organizations. Pray for the challenges they face in growth and development.

Option: Journal

If you are using the journal activity, give group members time to jot down the following sentence starters again today. If you have time, you may also want to give them time to begin writing.

Sentences starters you might use:

The justice issues I feel passionately about are . . .

I can work alongside the work God is already doing by . . .

My prayers this week are for . . .

Option: Information

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

HANDOUT: SESSION 6.1

1. How do we see Jesus responding to poverty?
 2. What responsibilities come with wealth?
 3. Has your view of poverty changed through this session? If so, how?
 4. What role do justice issues play in poverty?
 5. What qualities of a redeemed society/government can we work toward as God's people?
- 

