



Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 'The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25: 37-40

We Are Serving \_\_\_\_\_ When We Serve The Poor

"If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord." Proverbs 19:17

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:17-18

### **What is Poverty?**

*"Most Americans Define Poverty As A Lack Of Something Material.....The Truly Poor Define Poverty A Mindset..." ~When Helping Hurts ~Steve Corbet & Brian Fikkert~*

All Poverty Is Rooted In BROKENESS

- The Brokenness of SIN
- The Brokenness of SELF
- The Brokenness of RELATIONSHIPS

Jesus Sets Us FREE From The Brokenness That Is At The Root Of All Poverty

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Luke 4: 18-19

### **How To Empowering The Poor:**

#1 We Are Called To SERVE Others, Not Save Others

*"Relief Is Immediate Temporary Help During And After A Crisis.  
Development Is A Long-Term Relationship To Rebuild Sustainability & Wholeness."*

#2 We're Called To RELATE With People, Not Rescue People.

*"We're Not Going To Do For Someone Else What They Can Do For Themselves."*

### #3 We're Called To REACH Out, Not Reach Down.

*"We've divided the world into those who need help and those who offer help.  
The truth is, we are both."*

~Brené Brown~

## Life Group Discussion Questions

- Have you ever caught yourself complaining about "first world problems"?  
List some.
- What challenged you most about this weekend's message?

Read the following scripture about poverty.

Matthew 25:31-46; James 2:14-17 Matthew 5:42; Luke 12: 33-34

- Why do you think it's hard to see ourselves as equal to people who are facing financial poverty?

Read 1 John 3:17-18.

- What do you think it means to love with actions and truth?
- How do you think people can break cycles of poverty? What role should Christians play?
- What type of poverty have you personally experienced: financial, spiritual, relational, other?  
What gets you through it?
- Which of the three "We Are Called" points come naturally for you? Which are most difficult?  
Why?
- Have you been part of long-term relationships that brought restoration to people and/or communities? How did it work?
- What could you do to allow your own brokenness to change the way you relate with others who are also experiencing brokenness?
- What can you do to build meaningful relationships with people who are experiencing poverty?
- This week consider connecting with one of our local missions' partners to learn about getting involved in your community.

Content Courtesy of Life Church Open Resource <https://www.life.church/>

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