



*FH CFCT Toolkit*

# CHURCH LEADERS TRAINING MANUAL

*A Toolkit for Implementing FH's Child-Focused  
Community Transformation (CFCT) Model*





## Acknowledgments

The Child Focused Community Transformation Model and materials were developed over several years, and with countless hours of effort. Food for the Hungry gratefully acknowledges the many people who contributed to this manual. Over fifty FH staff have contributed to envisioning and refining what CFCT is today, and they come from every region and every country where FH works. The following people have contributed to this toolkit specifically.

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### Updates to this CFCT Toolkit:

Updates to this CFCT Toolkit will be made available and re-released. A summary of the changes, dates of the update, and the version numbers is included below so readers can be assured they have the latest copy and all the updates.

Version	Date	Changes
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### Translations:

Note that this document and accompanying electronic files are available in Spanish and French. Kindly contact [cfct@fh.org](mailto:cfct@fh.org) for more information.

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## Acronyms

CFCT	Child Focused Community Transformation
FH	Food for the Hungry
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
VMV	Vision, Mission and Values

## **CFCT Tool # XX: Church Leaders Training Manual**

### **Part 1: Overview**

#### **I. Church Leaders Capacity Building Overview**

##### **A. Program Design Considerations**

###### **1. Primary objective and target audience**

The primary objective of this manual is to encourage church leaders to grow in their understanding of the role of the Church in serving their community and ushering the Kingdom of God into their community. Accompanying goals include building unity among the church groups in a community, encouraging churches to develop a vision for how their church can best join God in His mission and teaching them how to plan towards that vision.

This manual is written specifically for the FH Institutional Strengthening Facilitators, or any other staff that fulfills the role of the Institutional Facilitator, to use as a guide to build the capacity of church leaders.

It is intended that the recipients of this training would be community-level church leaders from multiple denominations. It is assumed that a collection of church leaders would be invited to form one training group. Each church would be encouraged to send 2-4 representative leaders each (for example the pastor, a youth leader, a mother leader, a deacon). The manual is written with the assumption that more than one church takes part in the training sessions. The ideal number of participants is between 8-16 people. It will be possible to implement with only one church if necessary, however the facilitator will need to adapt some of the instructions and the design of some tasks.

###### **2. When to commence with the manual within CFCT**

Fields can implement this manual at any given time. However, if the church leaders are also part of the community leadership team (which is very common in most of the field where FH is working), it is highly recommended to start the manual once the implementation of the Community Leaders Training manual is completed. This will ensure not to overburden church leaders, given that most of the lesson plans in this manual take in average 90 minutes of training time.

To ensure a successful implementation of this manual, FH fields should engage churches in community outreach. For this purpose fields can use lesson one and two (except the MOU part) of CFCT Toolkit #4 as a guide to engage churches. We will not provide lesson plans for this purpose since we understand that fields will have to be sensitive to

cultural and organizational codes to approach churches. For example, in some communities it may be possible to call for a unified meeting and invite all churches to participate in the training, but in others this might be extremely difficult and the facilitator may have to visit each church leader individually. Therefore, fields have the liberty to determine the best approach to engage churches.

To aid in the process of engaging church leaders, below you will find a brief summary of the key elements of this manual. This manual will help churches:

- a. Discover their identity in God.
- b. Identify and recognize the inner value that God gives to people regardless of their beliefs.
- c. Discover how the story of the bible (biblical narrative) affects their past, present and future.
- d. Understand their role in their community as ambassadors of reconciliation.
- e. Recognize and identify the resources and skills that God has given to them to serve their entire community.
- f. Organize and mobilize their congregation to outreach and share the love of God with the entire community.

The rationale for the order of activities (from left to right) in the Sequence follows the order of the tools outlined in the Model Implementation Manual. Some countries may choose to move some activities before or after others according to what works best given the local context.

### 3. Importance of relationship building with church leaders

The relationship of trust and respect built between the FH Staff facilitator and the church leadership group cannot be underestimated.

Where appropriate, the Institutional Strengthening Facilitator is strongly encouraged to make regular visits to churches especially to ensure the implementation of acts of love. This helps the facilitator to learn, to build relationship, and to encourage and challenge the church leader where appropriate. When appropriate, facilitators are encouraged to do overnight stays and regularly spend time eating meals at the houses of church leaders and members, especially at the initial stage of building relationships and when implementing acts of love. Each field will need to decide what is most appropriate for their context. The idea is to spend time with church leaders and develop their relationship with them.

This will require plenty of time to be allocated to the staff member, and possibly a small amount of funds so they can contribute an equal share as a church and community member to different meals etc.

#### 4. Leadership Capacity Building Program Incentives

##### **Regarding over-all program provision of incentives**

You want to strike a balance between providing nothing (which could result in you not seeming like a genuine partner desiring development) and providing too much (seeming like a generous benefactor)

Examples of what has worked to indicate a genuine desire to partner with the church leaders specifically, include:

- Providing an initial hard-cover 'agenda' notebook, for the group to keep their meeting notes in.
- Providing folders for each church. Church Leaders will have to file several documents that will be used multiple times and in different days.
- Providing a plastic sheet filled file, for each church leader to keep all their session training notes.
- Providing small project 'budget support' (after capacity building) by way of materials identified in the identified project plans and budgets. (It is highly advised this type of support be avoided and be limited to specific situations that can be justified by the area coordinator. It should not be the norm).
- Providing a certificate to those who have completed all the training sessions in this manual.

The main thing to keep in mind with different provisions is to NOT provide anything that benefits the church leaders themselves as individuals. For example:

*Once in Mozambique, a group of leaders asked the program manager to provide them with hats and other items of clothing that would distinguish them as members of the leadership group (they had seen other programs by NGOs including FH previously do this in the community). They were responded to by being asked a rhetorical question – "Well what is unique about your leadership group? How do you want to represent yourselves? FH couldn't possibly know what is best for your unique group – and for the other communities that we work with." They were encouraged to think about how they would like to identify themselves in a unique way that would work best for them. Nothing was provided.*

##### **Regarding provisions during the session times**

Since church leaders will be trained in their communities, it is highly recommended you do not provide any incentives for the leaders to come to the sessions. Care does need to be taken so that the timing and location of the sessions allows for and encourages the most leaders to be able to attend. Particular attention should be paid to when women and youth would be able to attend.

The group should also be able to choose how they want to manage refreshments, if desired, during the session times. The FH Staff Facilitator should look to contribute only

as much as the other members of the group are contributing. For example, if they rotate responsibility for providing a meal or refreshment, provide the facilitator with enough to contribute on an equal level over time with the rest of the church leaders.

An example of how this has been handled:

- *In rural communities in Mozambique, the majority of community leader groups met every other week. Because many of them had to walk a considerable distance to attend, they chose to take more time in a day to meet, generally having longer sessions that took place around a lunch meal. The facilitator was provided with \$4 per month to be able to contribute an amount to the lunch that was fair in comparison to what other members were contributing. Sometimes they provided soft drinks. At others times they bought a chicken, or rice to contribute to the meal.*
- *In the peri-urban communities, community leaders did not have to walk much distance and chose to only share a light snack and drink around the session time. The FH Staff Facilitator was provided with enough to contribute equally over the month to the small snacks that the groups had.*

#### 5. Guidelines for Church Leader Group Formation

How FH engages with church leaders will vary widely and depend on the context of the field. Invite all churches that are part of the community, but do not pressure churches to participate if they are not willing to commit to come at least 80% of the sessions. In some cases church leaders can make an executive decision to participate in different trainings. In other cases, church leaders need to request permission from their headquarters to participate in any activity outside their denomination approved activities. If this is the case, ask the church leaders what is that they need to request participation and if appropriate and possible the facilitator should accompany them to ask for permission.

The facilitator needs to be sensitive to how are the relationships between churches. In some communities churches from different denominations are unified and do activities together. If this is the case, forming the training group would not be challenging. However, in other communities there is rivalry and misunderstandings between churches and denominations. If this is the case the facilitator need to be very savvy in how to present the invitation to the churches. The hot topic when inviting churches is doctrine, make sure to tell church leaders that FH will not promote any doctrine in specific, FH will only promote the key elements presented at the beginning of the manual.

Usually if the training sessions are in a different location than a church, it is not very difficult to bring different church leaders “under one roof”, even when there is rivalry. Nevertheless, the facilitator needs to moderate the relationship between churches during the training. As the manual is rolled out pray that church leaders will feel

convicted, seek reconciliation and even beyond, work together for the development of their community.

6. The structure of each training session

Each session has been written based on an hour and a half (minimum) timeframe. It is recommended that after the initial approach, those churches that accepted to participate in the training come to an agreement on the time, place and regularity of the meetings.

(The first trainings may take more time than expected, therefore you should discuss with the leaders if they are able to meet for a longer period. While you are studying the manual make sure to evaluate if there will be some lesson that may take longer than expected. If this is the case contact the Institutional Strengthening Specialist in your country to help you divide the lessons. Ultimately you should plan to meet with the church leaders in a way that allows them to learn at a pace that fits them.) Many of the sessions are quite full of content and require the participants (church leaders) to do follow up work and application outside of the session times, either in their own lives or with church members.

Some sessions may generate discussions since they touch theological concepts. Try to bring the participants to the objective of the lesson instead of trying to find the correct interpretations of a bible verse. However, don't cut their conversation abruptly, let them discuss for a couple minutes and gently shepherd them back to the lesson. You will need to decide how best to 'rollout' the sessions as best suits your church leaders' contexts.

Some scenarios anticipated for fields include:

- Having training sessions weekly and working through the content exactly as is (with the church leaders completing their application homework within the week).
- Having trainings sessions weekly, but allowing the occasional every second week for the group to work on their take home task together.
- Having training sessions every other week, allowing the participant leaders 2 weeks to complete their take home tasks. (Recommended)
- Having training sessions every other week, allowing for some of the sessions to be extensions of the previous session to work through application of material, rather than presenting a new session of material.
- If none of these scenarios work for your community, then you may decide to create a schedule that works for you. Feel free to contact the specialist in your country to determine the best time and place for the implementation of this manual. It is recommended to finish the sessions in about a year if you can.

Regarding the Institutional Strengthening Facilitator time-management for the sessions: the sharing of a meal or snack is not included in the session outlines; nor is the time

needed for preparation of the environment prior to the session, or the time to continue to build relationship with the leaders. For this reason it is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 3.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time). This will depend on the meeting culture of each community.

## **B. Structure of the Manual and Modules**

This manual has been divided into four modules, including:

Module 1: 7 Lessons - Loved by God, Loving God

Module 2: 5 Lessons - God's Story

Module 3: 6 Lessons - The Church and the Kingdom of God

Module 4: 6 Lessons - The Church in Action

It is highly recommended that the modules be implemented on chronological order in the community, as the majority of the application and homework (take-home) tasks have been designed with that assumption.

Each session has been designed with take-home tasks for the participants that often require working with their church members. Therefore, the recommended time between each session is 2 weeks. This means that the trainings will be carried out every other week, giving two weeks between trainings for take home tasks.

## **C. Combining this manual with the CFCT Community Leaders Training Manual Toolkit # 5**

This CFCT Church Leaders Training Manual and the CFCT Community Leaders Training Manual have been written with very similar target audiences in mind. (In fact, it is hoped that some church leaders would be attending the community leaders training). The style of the delivery of the content, including the participatory nature of many activities and the application and take-home tasks, is almost identical. Options therefore exist for the relatively easy access of additional training material from the Community Leaders Training Manual for church leaders training.

Accessing training material from the Community Leaders Training Manual would also enable fields to fund some of the church leaders training with government funds, as the Community Leaders Training Manual has been designed to be able to be funded by government or non-private funding.

Recommendations of materials from the Community Leaders Training that could be used in combination with the Church Leaders Training Manual include:

1. This manual does not address the role and challenges of an individual leader to a great degree. (It is addressed in Module 3 - the Kingdom of God, however not from a 'leadership' frame of reference). If more specific leadership training is desired, large portions of lessons 2, 3, 4 & 5 from Module 1 of the community

leaders training manual would also be able to be used for church leaders. This would be best used after Module 1 or Module 2 of this manual.

2. For church leaders to learn more about how to elaborate a specific project plan, it is recommended that they are facilitated in the 'Module 4 - Project Planning' sessions from the Community Leaders Training Manual. This would be best used after Module 4 of this manual.
3. If the capacity of the church leaders is very high, you could consider modifying the last half of Module 4 (Sessions 22-24) to involve a more detailed strategic planning process, followed by an annual planning and detailed M&E process. To do this you would access Module 2, Sessions 5-7 from the community leaders training manual.
4. A lot of further training content is available through the 'optional biblical reflection' portions of the community leaders training manual. These could be used either in the capacity building of facilitators, or in training the church leaders themselves.

Note: the use of this material is unlikely to be government funding acceptable

#### **D. Facilitator Experience or Training Requirements**

It is assumed that the person in charge of the implementation of this manual is the Institutional Strengthening Facilitator. Given the vast theological concepts presented in this manual, the facilitator is required to at least have participated in Vision, Mission and Values Training One. It is also recommended to provide facilitators with bibliography to read before implementing this manual. The recommended books are:

1. If Jesus Were Mayor by Bob Moffitt and Karla Tesch (Jan 31, 2007).
2. The Worldview of the Kingdom of God (Kingdom Lifestyle Bible Studies) by Darrow L Miller, Bob Moffitt and Scott D. Allen (Nov 1, 2005)
3. God's Unshakable Kingdom (Kingdom Lifestyle Bible Studies) by Darrow L Miller, Bob Moffitt and Scott D. A (Jun 15, 2005)
4. God's Remarkable Plan for the Nations (Kingdom Lifestyle Bible Studies) by Darrow L Miller, Bob Moffitt and Scott D. A (Oct 15, 2005)
5. Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures by Darrow L. Miller and Stan Guthrie (Jun 1, 2001)
6. Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development by Bryant Myers (Dec 1, 2011)

When the facilitator confronts a question that he/she doesn't have the correct answer, it is better to be honest and tell the participants that he/she doesn't have an answer at the moment but will ask and bring an answer in the near future. Contact the Institutional Strengthening specialist in your country to get answers to difficult questions.



## E. Facilitator Guidelines

Dear FH Staff Facilitator,

Thank you for taking on this wonderful role of walking with church leaders to see them discover their identity in God, the value and worth that God gave to every community member and practical ways to reach their community.

You are the person that is already in relationship with these church leaders. You know their daily routine and availability for training and maybe you are even consider part of their community.

For this reason, the following session outlines leave you some choice in how you share this material with the church leaders. It is an opportunity for you to grow in your leadership as you make important choices about how to share this new material. It is also an opportunity for you to be creative and we would love to hear if you develop any new tools, approaches, stories, and ideas along the way. Please share with your manager what you find works best so we can all learn together!

Some prompts to help you in your preparation have been included below:

### 1. Preparation in approach

Wherever there is an area that will require choices of approach, preparation of local examples, or preparation of personal examples on your part, you will find this symbol:



Please be sure to read thoroughly through the session outline and make sure you feel confident making the decisions required of you. Most likely, you will need to read through each session various times to become comfortable with the material. If you are not, be sure to discuss with colleagues or your manager the best way to go about facilitating each session.

### 2. Preparation of materials and resources to use

Please consider the “Materials and Preparation” section only a guideline for your use in preparing each facilitation session.

It is important that you select the best materials to use for any given activity based on the accessibility and comfort level your participant will have with those materials.

Some examples include:

#### 1. Writing materials:

- a. Some communities may have a blackboard available for your use; you will then need to prepare with enough chalk available for all the leaders to take part in every activity

- b. Others may require you to take in a flipchart with you; you will then need to also have enough markers or pens available for everyone to use.
  - c. The use of a 'flipchart' is discussed throughout this manual. A flipchart simply means large sheets of paper to write on.
2. Diagram drawing:
- a. Often it is good if diagrams can be drawn large, on the ground, so that everyone can orient himself or herself around it equally, and it can be far larger than what is possible on paper.
  - b. Drawing on the ground also allows for the use of physical symbols (example: A physical book to represent knowledge, rather than a drawing of a book). This can be helpful for memory retention for everyone involved, and for those who are not literate.
3. Fruit of the Spirit Measurement and ranking/voting materials (also called Preference Ranking Exercise or 10 seeds)
- a. The words "10 seeds" or seeds will be used, but it is assumed that you will select the best materials available to you. The best materials are generally those that the leaders can provide themselves or that are readily accessible in the community.
  - b. For example, the use of beans, seeds, rocks, sticks, leaves and other things – depending on the requirements of the activity

Wherever there is flexibility for you to select the materials used, this symbol has been inserted to alert you to the choice when you are planning ahead:



### 3. Timing of sessions and modules

The sessions have been designed to follow one-another within each module, however your field office will have decided in which order to do the modules, depending on what is most appropriate in your communities.

Each session has a lot of content and opportunities for application to the church leaders, on an individual, family, church or community level. It is sincerely hoped that time will be spent on these application components outside of the official 'teaching' sessions for new material.

For example, if you are officially meeting once every two weeks for these sessions, encourage churches to meet on the 'off-week' by themselves to work through the materials again, applying what they have learned.

### 4. Developing a positive and effective learning environment

How adults learn best is often very different than the experiences many of us have had in school growing up. As you facilitate these sessions, it is good to be aware that how your past learning experiences growing up are not necessarily the best way adults learn. There are four principles of adult learning that when are present in a learning environment, allow adults to learn best.

**1. Safety:** Learning happens best when adults feel safe to ask questions, debate, and free to give their opinion. Safety also includes physical safety as well.

**2. Respect:** Every person is made in God's image with unique skills, talents and experiences. Adults learn better when they are respected.

**3. Relevance:** What they are learning must connect to their lives and be relevant. When topics are relevant and can be applied to life or a certain situation, adults will learn better.

**4. Engagement:** They are engaged in what they are doing (learning by doing). They are doing something with the material they are learning.

Tips for reflecting these principles in our work:

- Use small groups. Small groups create safety. Quieter people feel safer to share in smaller groups.
- Always hold meetings and learning sessions in a place where church leaders feel physically safe and free to say what they think and feel.
- Create an atmosphere of openness, trust and excitement, where church leaders will not be made to feel small or ignorant.
- Even when they say the wrong answers or have trouble understanding or applying what they are learning, do not make them feel as though they have failed. Always encourage leaders toward a positive and truthful way.
- Be transparent: tell the church leaders what is coming next, explain why the context is being taught in a certain way, etc. Share you own errors, thoughts, questions, and things you've wondered about.
- Remember that you are there for the church leaders and the issues that concern them. Do not give orders or force your opinion. Be flexible if it seems like more time and attention needs to be given to certain topics.
- Listen first. Ask questions before you give answers.
- Encourage church leaders to share their ideas, experiences, and opinions. Value their life experiences and stories.
- Remember that you are a "facilitator" who is helping church leaders discover things for themselves. You are not a lecturer telling them what to do.
- Be authentic. "Few Adults will put up with anything false in class or program. If they have the option to object or leave, they will" (Vella, 313.)

- Encourage participation by church leaders whenever possible and involve as many different leaders as possible. The church leaders should talk and DO more than the facilitator.
- Teach from your heart. Church leaders will know if you are being sincere.
- Be prepared. Give yourself enough time to prepare. Be familiar with the lesson for that day. Follow the curriculum provided but be natural (do not read it word for word). You may need to read through the lessons various times or try to practice the lesson with coworkers to help you feel well prepared.
- Do not lecture or dictate to church leaders. They have their own experiences and have a lot of wisdom to share.
- Keep the energy up. The flow between activities should be quick and without delay. Facilitators should always be prepared with the next activity beforehand.
- Encourage and praise church leaders for their efforts, even when they are not perfect.
- Be humble. Let the church leaders know that you are learning with them.
- Be consistent and fair to all. Show equal love to all, especially those who might be difficult to love.
- Make learning fun. Have a sense of humor and make the sessions fun and exciting.
- Reflect on your own life and seek to be a positive example for the church leaders.
- Recognize the accomplishment of individual churches and encourage a coordinated work of all churches in the community when ever possible.

Good facilitation integrates the four adult education principles and creates a better learning environment for adults and our community leaders. Facilitation describes the process of taking a group through learning or change in a way that encourages all members of the group to participate. This approach assumes that each person has something unique and valuable to share. Without each person's contribution and knowledge, the group's ability to understand or respond to a situation may be reduced. The facilitator's role is to draw out knowledge and ideas from different members of a group, to help encourage them to learn from each other and to think and act together. (Clarke)

## **F. Monitoring and Evaluation**

M&E Tools were created to accompany this manual. Therefore, fields that decide to implement this highly recommended manual should use these M&E tools. Each tool comes with comprehensive guidelines. Below you will find the list of the tools and where you can find them:

1. Church Leaders Register. Captures data about the training of Church Leaders, their attendance, compliance with take home tasks, implementation of acts of love and church plan development. Found in Annex 37.
2. Church Leaders Checklist. Evaluates if the participants were able to understand the concepts taught during the training. Found in Annex 38.
3. Quality Improvement Verification Checklist (QIVC). This checklist ensures the quality of the training by evaluating the facilitation skills of the Institutional Facilitator. [Click here for an online training on the use of QIVCs](#). The checklist can be found in Annex 39.
4. Beneficiary Feedback Form. This form will capture the beneficiary's perception of the quality of the training and its benefit for their church. Found in Annex 40.

### **G. Program Quality Standards and this Manual**

*This section is under development*

### **H. Support for Users of this Manual**

*This section is under development*

**DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PARTICIPATORY FACILITATION AND COVENTIONAL TRAINING**  
**(SEIBERT, 6)**

Participatory Facilitation	Conventional Training
1. Values personal experience	1. Values facts and knowledge
2. Everyone contributes to the learning	2. Teacher gives students information
3. Participants and facilitator share power in the learning environment	3. Teacher holds all the power in a classroom style setting
4. Aims to create a safe environment for sharing experiences	4. Creates fear of authority or teacher
5. Based on respect for each other and shared responsibility between participants	5. Values obedience and “good behavior”
6. Encourages risk taking and diversity of experiences	6. Focuses on correct answers and success
7. Values cooperation among participants	7. Fosters competition between students
8. Values emotions as well as logical thinking	8. Values logical thinking and ignores emotion
9. Encourages creative thinking	9. Values memory based learning
10. Focuses on building skills that affect one’s personal life	10. Usually focuses on giving theoretical knowledge

1. Preparing the learning location
  - No matter where the sessions take place (such as a classroom, church, or open space), do NOT set up the room to feel like a school classroom if possible. Preferably try to meet in a neutral place (not an specific church).
  - The meeting space should be healthy with good ventilation and protection from harsh weather like hot sun, wind, rain (even insects).
  - Church leaders should face away from things that may distract their attention from the learning session, like a busy street or playing field.
  - You might want to try changing the set up of the room or even the location from session to session to see what works best. Clearly explain what you want the group to do and let them know how long they have to do it (suggested times listed for activities will help you plan).
  - Move chairs so that the leaders are sitting in a circle or semi-circle and the entire group can see each other. You should also sit or stand in the circle, not up front. Also, all leaders should have equal access to the learning environment and you, the facilitator.

2. Preparation for meetings

- Before you present it to the group, read the entire lesson (various times) and practice it until you are comfortable. You may wish to practice the session with other co-workers.
- Plan at least 15 minutes for the introduction of every session. Ten minutes to review the previous session and other five minutes to have a time of worship. For the last, make sure to have a volunteer to lead the group in worship a week in advance.
- During the introduction take one minute to share the objectives of the lesson and the estimated time the session will take.
- Arrive at least 30 minutes (or more!) before the session begins to prepare the room or space .
- Have all supplies ready to pass out before you begin the session. If possible plan to give a plastic folder to every church, not every leader, but one per church to save the materials that they produce during the training.
- When sharing stories make sure to have your story written or at least thought in advance. Usually impromptu stories don't communicate what they aim to communicate. If it is difficult for you to found stories talk with the co-workers to help you. Feel free to visit this website to find stories of churches working for the development of their community:  
<http://reconciledworld.org/blog/>

### 3. Resources

Vella, Jane and Associates. (2004). *Dialog Education at work, A case book*. Jossey-Bass.  
Clarke Sophia. (2004, Sept). *Effective Facilitation*, Tearfund, Footsteps, No 60.  
Keys, Phillippa. (2009). *Resource Manual for Capacity Building Rural Community Leaders*. Food for the Hungry. p8

Siebert, Sara and Lori Michau. (2009). *Training and Mentoring Skills Series Staff Skill Building Library*. Raising Voices, Raising Voices.

## Part 2: Church Leaders Training Manual Modules

### I. Module 1: Loved by God, Loving God

#### Overview Table

Session	Key Messages
<b>Session 1: Introduction</b>	The Bible is God's Word to us. It is the foundation upon which we need to build our lives.
<b>Session 2: Image of God</b>	God is the Creator of all people. We are all made in God's image and are very precious to God. We are God's image bearers. We are to love others as God loves us.
<b>Session 3: The Four Areas of Development</b>	God cares about all areas of our lives. People are intended to grow in their wisdom, and intended to grow physically, spiritually and socially.
<b>Session 4: Who should help?</b>	God wants his people - the church - to help those who are suffering and vulnerable.
<b>Session 5: Love God and love our neighbor</b>	God has called us to love him, and love our neighbor
<b>Session 6: How to help</b>	We are to love and help others in ways that encourage people toward their God-given potential.
<b>Session 7: Acts of Love Part 1</b>	Acts of Love are done: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To show God's love</li> <li>2. In obedience to God</li> <li>3. Through God's strength</li> <li>4. So that God is praised</li> </ol>
<b>Session 8: Acts of Love Part 2</b>	Acts of Love are done: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To show God's love</li> <li>2. In obedience to God</li> <li>3. Through God's strength</li> <li>4. So that God is praised</li> <li>5. Small and simple</li> <li>6. Using local resources</li> </ol>



## Session 1 - Introduction

### Time

90 minutes<sup>1</sup>

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipcharts
- Markers
- Tape or sticky tack
- 1 long stick or length of bamboo
- 2 pencils, pens, markers or something similar to balance on the stick
- 1 copy of Manual Overview (Annex 1)
- Annex 2 - Card Sorting Template: 1 copy for every participant. Prepared, photocopied and cut out, sufficient for every participant.
- (See instructions below)

### Objectives

1. Experienced working together as a team
2. Voiced their expectations for these sessions
3. Discussed FH expectations for these sessions
4. Committed to completing take-home assignments
5. Discussed the importance of the Bible as the foundation for their lives and these trainings
6. Discussed some of the values they prioritize in life with a partner
7. Planned to do the life values card sorting exercise with their significant other or group of friends.

### Key Message

The Bible is God's Word to us. It is the foundation upon which we need to build our lives.

### Summary

Session Opening - 25 minutes

Activity 1: Expectations - 25 minutes

Activity 2: Setting Our Foundation - 25 minutes

Take-home Task – 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

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<sup>1</sup> It is strongly recommended that the facilitator plan for 2 ½ hours at this session.

## Session Opening - 25 minutes

### Introduction - 5-10 minutes

*Plan time to:*

- *Welcome everyone and introduce yourself*
- *Take a record of attendance*
- *Open the session with Prayer*
- *Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship*
- *Optional: If there are people in the group who don't know each other, invite people to briefly introduce themselves with: their name, which church they are from, and one sentence about their family.*

### Group Energizer – “Lower the Stick” - 10 - 15 minutes

*This activity is designed to demonstrate the importance of teamwork and cooperation, working together as the Body of Christ.*

1. *(Say) To begin, let's do a fun activity as a group.*
2. *Lead them through the following exercise:*
  - a. *Divide the group into two lines of people, facing one another.*
  - b. *Place a long stick or bamboo between the two lines and get each person to hold it with one finger.*
  - c. *Make sure that the stick is level and everyone is holding it, and then tell the group that they have to lower it together, making sure the stick is level, until it reaches the ground.*
  - d. *If the group needs more of a challenge to engage together, you can repeat it and make it more difficult by placing a pencil or pen at each end of the stick that they have to keep in place as they lower the stick.*
  - e. *Congratulate them at the end!*

3. *When they have completed the activity, ask:*
  - a. *What helped you all to complete this activity?*

*Look for observations about teamwork and/or leadership. Allow time for several people to make observations*

- b. *What made this activity difficult to complete?*

*Look for observations about teamwork and/or leadership. Allow time for several people to make observations*

- c. *(Explain)*: Working closely together does present challenges at times, though the blessing is in learning to work through them and learn to work as a whole body.
4. *(Wrap up the energizer, say)*:  
I look forward to working with you all - we will all learn to work together and encourage one another just as you have in this activity.

### **Session Objectives - 1 minute**

5. *(Say)*: What a privilege it is to work with this group of church leaders for the weeks to come. I am very thankful to the Lord that we have this time together to share in these training sessions. I am confident that the Lord will bless us as we learn and grow together. We are all students and all teachers. I don't have all the answers or solutions to challenges or problems; I am here to help guide us through activities and discussions to understand God's call for us in this community. I look forward to learning from and with you and to improve our abilities as church leaders for the benefit of our community.
6. *(Say)* The objective of this first session is to get to know each other better, and to understand all of our expectations for this group, including how FH can walk with you and your churches.

### **Activity 1: Expectations - 25 minutes**

#### **Participant Expectations - 15 minutes**

7. *(Ask)* Have any of you been involved in church leader training before?
  - a. *(If someone has been involved in a training before, ask)*  
Can you tell us a little about it? What was it about? How has it impacted you since the training?

*Allow time for several people to respond. Encourage quieter member to speak up. Thank people for sharing*

2. *(Say)* Now I want you to think about why you have come to these trainings or are here in this group.
  - a. *(Ask)* What have you heard about these trainings? What would you like to learn or gain from them? What are your expectations?
  - b. *(Say)* Turn to someone near you and tell him or her one thing you would like to learn while you are here and one question you have about the trainings. You have 1 minute each.


3. (After two minutes, say) Now please share with the whole group some of the things you would like to learn while you are in this training group? I will write them down.

*Write their responses up on a flip chart - try and draw symbols instead of using words where possible. Be encouraging with all their responses. Thank them at the end.*

4. (Outline FH's broad goal for this training, say)  
Community partners like FH come and go but the church remains in the community. FH believes that the church is the body of Christ, comprised of people with unique roles, gifts, talents and resources given to them by God to serve this community. We want to walk with you to help your church members identify and understand this, and bring praise to Jesus by loving and serving everyone in your community.
5. (Show them the pictorial overview of the manual from Annex 1, outlining the 4 modules of the training manual. Say) We plan to cover these four main areas in the trainings with you.



MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PREPARED ANNEX 1 AND MODIFIED THE SYMBOLS TO BE THOSE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY. THOSE INCLUDED IN THE ANNEX ARE IDEAS ONLY.

Module 1: Loved by God Loving God	
Module 2: God's Story	
Module 3: God's Church in Community	
Module 4: God's Church in Action	

6. (Explain each module briefly, say)

First, we look at what it means for us, the church, that all people are loved by God. Everyone is created by God, made in God's image, loved by God. What does that mean for us? How do we best love God in response to God's love for us and for the world?

Second, we will look at an overview of the whole biblical story. We will see how we are invited to be part of God's story. God desires to be in loving relationship with each of us and invites us to participate in God's great plan of healing and salvation.

Third, we will examine what God is calling us to as a church in a broader community. This will focus on the Kingdom of God.

Fourth and finally, we will conclude by looking at how churches can respond to God's call to action, by planning and serving in unity.

7. *(Now, look back at their expectation list and link as many as you can to the overview you have given. Point out any expectations that are obviously not going to be met in these trainings too.)*
8. *(To end, say)* It will be exciting in the weeks to come to learn more about God and about God's love, and how we can more fully love God by loving and serving our community.  
*(Ask)* Does anyone have any questions or comments?

#### **FH Expectations - 10 minutes**

9. *(Say)* Now, I have two expectations that I'd like to share with you. The first - I'd like you to bring a Bible with you to every session. Is that going to be possible?

*Allow time for discussion. See if they will share among their church groups to have at least one Bible per church represented.*

KNOW AHEAD OF TIME IF THIS IS GOING TO BE REALISTIC OR NOT. ACCORDING TO YOUR BUDGET AVAILABILITY YOU MAY OFFER TO PROVIDE BIBLES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT THAT DOES NOT HAVE ONE, OR YOU MAY COORDINATE WITH THE HEAD CHURCH SO THEY CAN PROVIDE A BIBLE FOR EACH PARTICIPANT, DEPENDING ON THEIR LITERACY OR WHAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR FH AND THE WHOLE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP.

10. *(Ask)* Do you know why I want you to bring a Bible to each lesson?

*Allow time for a couple of responses. Encourage their ideas.*

11. *(Summarize, say)* The Bible is God's Word to us and provides us everything we need to know about what is true and what is right and what God wants for our lives.
12. *(Say)* The other expectation I have is that you carry out some tasks or take-home assignments in between each of our meetings. Is this something you are willing to commit to?

*Allow time for discussion.*

- a. *Explain that they will be different every time - sometimes for each individual participant, sometimes for each church group represented*

WHEN INVITING PEOPLE TO JOIN THESE TRAINING SESSIONS, THE PARTICIPANTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE AHEAD OF TIME THAT APPLICATION 'HOMEWORK' WOULD BE A PART OF THE TRAININGS. MAKE SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF WHAT HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED PRIOR TO THIS FIRST MEETING. YOU MAY NEED TO MODIFY HOW YOU COMMUNICATE THIS EXPECTATION.

13. *(Summarize, say)* The best way to learn is to apply what we discuss. You'll get the most of the trainings this way.

## Activity 2: Setting Our Foundation - 25 minutes

### Introduction - 10 minutes

14. *(Say)* Let's consider what we want the foundation of our sessions together to be.

15. *(Ask)* Has anyone ever lived in a house or seen a building with a bad foundation before? What happened?

*Wait for one or two responses. If someone has a story, ask him/her to briefly share what happened.*

16. *(Say)* Can someone read what Jesus says in Matthew 7:24-27 for us?

*Write the Scripture Reference up the top of a flipchart while someone is finding it. "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." – Matthew 7:24-27*

17. *(Ask)* What was Jesus' main point in this story?

*Allow for 2-3 people to respond.*

18. *(Ask)* What are some examples of how someone can build his or her life on God's word?

*Allow for several minutes discussion. Prompt for specific examples of behaviors such as: reading the bible regularly; praying through scripture; acting on the Bible's instructions (actually DOING the Word); serving others with love; encouraging others in their family and friends to learn about the Bible, etc.*

19. *(Ask)* What are some practical consequences for people like you and me who do not building their lives on God's Word?

*Allow for 2-3 people to respond.*

20. *(Ask)* How is this a challenge for us in these trainings?

*Prompt for these answers: We need to look to the Bible to find truth. We need to rely on God's Word in the Bible to guide our application of what we learn. We should test everything we hear and discuss by the Bible and in prayer.*

21. (Say) I want to introduce something we will be doing in each session. We will identify key messages that are summaries of the sessions. These key messages will help us remember the most important lessons each time we meet. So today, our key message is:

**Session 1 Key Message:**

The Bible is God’s Word to us. It is the foundation upon which we need to build our lives.

*Write this key message up on the flipchart under the Scripture Reference.*

22. (Ask) Would you mind repeating this out loud with me a couple of times? That will help us all to remember it.  
*Repeat the key message slowly, out loud, 2 or 3 more times. Encourage everyone to join in once they are remembering it.*
23. (Ask) Do you agree with this statement?  
*Allow for 1-2 responses/questions.*

**Card Sorting Exercise – 15 minutes**

24. (Say) Let’s do an exercise together now. I’m going to hand everyone a set of 10 cards that have life values written on them. I would like you to look through them and choose the top three in order that describe the things most important to you in life right now. There is no right or wrong answer - simply choose the top 3 and rank them in order. You have 5 minutes to do this.

*Hand out the cards.*



FACILITATOR: YOU NEED TO CHOOSE 10 AREAS OF LIFE THAT PEOPLE VALUE THAT ARE PRESSING AND RELEVANT FOR YOUR CHURCH LEADERS. IT IS RECOMMENDED YOU CHOOSE AT LEAST 8 FROM THE LIFE VALUES LIST BELOW, AND THEN ADD IN 2 MORE THAT ARE RELEVANT IN YOUR CONTEXT. ANNEX 2 HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR YOU TO FILL IN WITH EITHER WORDS, PICTURES OR BOTH.

Life Values List

Family	Money	Faith
Marriage	Stability	Health
My children	Home	Serving others
God	Happiness	

25. (After 5 minutes, say) Now that you have sorted your top 3 items, please turn to a partner, share your choices, and discuss these questions.

- a. How did you choose the 3 items that you did?
- b. Was it easy or difficult to choose - why?
- c. Would your choices be different if you did this again at a different time in your life?

You will have 5 minutes to discuss this.

*Visit each pair to check their understanding of the instructions. Encourage their discussion.*

26. *(After 5 minutes, say)* This exercise helps us to think about what we value in life - what is important to us at this time. This is similar to thinking about what our foundation in life is - what we are choosing to build our life on. It can be very hard to know what it is we are building our life on - so doing exercises like this can help us to start talking and thinking about this area.

*(Say)* We all want to build a foundation (for our lives) on God's Word and Truth. When we do this we will see significant, lasting, positive change in our lives, the lives of our churches, our community and our nation. We learn more of how this can happen throughout the rest of this manual.

### **Take-home Task – 10 minutes**

27. *(Say)* I'd like to challenge you to complete your first task. I would like you to take home these cards and do this same activity with a significant other person in your life. If you are married, I suggest you do this card sorting exercise together with your wife. If you are single, I suggest you do it with a trusted group of friends.
28. *(Say)* The goal of this task is simply to create more discussion with others in your life about what you - and if you are married, your spouse, value. This will help you all to think more about what foundation(s) you are building your lives on. There are no right or wrong answers to this exercise - being honest is the best approach.
- (Say)* In the next session, I will not ask you to share how you rank these values - that can remain private. But I will ask you how conducting this task goes, and what you learn from it.
29. *(Ask)* Do you feel like you are able to commit to this task?  
(Use these questions to ensure a thorough discussion and preparation)
- a. What could make doing this task hard for you?
  - b. How do you think your significant other(s) will respond to this activity?
  - c. What do you think could be some benefits of doing this activity?
  - d. Can you think of ways to make this easier?



30. *(To conclude, ask)* Is anyone willing to commit now to doing this task by our next session?

*(Allow time to respond.*

*Look for verbal commitments from every person if possible.)*

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

*Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.*

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message*
- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*
- *Share the content of the next session*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another*
- *Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer*

### **Resources**

FH Association (2012), FH Vision, Mission and Values Training for New Staff

Njoroge, F. Raistrick, T. Crooks, B. Mouradian, J (2009), *Umoja: Facilitator's Guide*, Tearfund.



## Session 2 - Image of God

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack (to be able to post flipchart pages, so participants can see more than one page at a time)
- Bible
- 1 copy - Annex 3 - Small Group Activity Guides, cut out

### Objectives

1. Discussed what they learned by sorting their life values list with a significant other(s)
2. Shared with a partner what it means personally to be made in God's image
3. Discussed the value which God places on every single person
4. Discussed what alternative beliefs exist in their community regarding who created and purposed humankind.
5. Identified 'undervalued' people in their community
6. Debated that serving a person in need is that same as serving Jesus
7. Discussed who in their community are treated as having no value
8. Committed to serving one under-valued person in the community this week.

### Key Message

God is the Creator of all people. We are all made in God's image and are very precious to God. We are God's image bearers. We are to love others as God loves us.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1- 60 minutes

Take-home Task – 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

*Plan time to:*

1. *Welcome everyone*
2. *Take a record of attendance*
3. *Open the session with Prayer*

4. *Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship*

### Review of take-home task

1. *(Ask) Can someone remind us of what the key message was from last session?*

The Bible is God's Word to us. It is the foundation upon which we are to build our lives.

2. *(Ask) How many of you were able to complete the take home task from last session?*

Allow some time for response. Congratulate those who were able to.

Ask these questions to deepen the discussion:

- a. What happened? How did your significant other or friends respond to the exercise?
- b. Did anything surprise you when you did this exercise a second time?
- c. Did you sort the cards differently or the same? Why do you think that is the case?
- d. What have you learned from doing this?
- e. How easy do you think it is to know what foundation we are building our lives on? What makes you think that?

### Session Objective

*(Say) Today we are going to look at how everyone is made in God's image. We will explore what that means for us.*

### Activity 1- 60 minutes

#### Introduction - 10 minutes

3. *(Say) Let us look at what the Bible says at the very beginning: Genesis 1:26-27. We will read it together and then answer some questions.*

4. *(Ask someone to read the verses for you.)*

*Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. – Genesis 1:26-27*

5. *(Ask)*
  - a. How are people different from the rest of creation?

Response: People are made to rule over the rest of creation. They are made in God's image.

- b. Who was God's model for creating humans?

Response: God himself.

*Allow several people to give responses, and encourage those who are quiet to respond.*

6. *(Say) Let's think about what it means to us personally, that we are created in God's image. Take 2 minutes now to think about how it makes you feel to be created by God, in his image. Then, I will ask you to briefly share your thoughts with a partner*

*Allow 2 minutes of silence to think about this. Then, ask them to share their thoughts with a partner for another 2 minutes each.*

### **Experience - 20 minutes**

7. *(Say) Now let us read this passage from Psalm 139: 13 - 16. (Write the Scripture reference up).*
8. *(Say) We will then divide into two groups and have 5 minutes to discuss some questions in your groups. (Read the passage)*

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

*Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. – Psalm 139: 13-16*

9. *(Say) In this verse it says "I am fearfully and wonderfully made". When this was written, the writer was not in fear of the Lord. The writer meant that we are created with respect, awe and reverence for the Lord.*

10. *(Say) Now lets divide into two groups and I will hand out the questions.*

Small Group activity sheet:

Read Psalm 139:13-16.

Discuss these questions:

1. What do these verses tell us about the importance of people?
2. Do you think that this verse only applies to some people or all people? Why, or why not?
3. For those of you who have children - how precious are your children to you?
4. How do you think God views every single person on this earth?

*Provide the small group activity sheets from Annex 3.*

*Visit each group to check they have found the scripture and are discussing the questions.*

*After 5 minutes, invite everyone to reform into a big group.*

11. (Ask) *Are you encouraged by this psalm today? What did you learn?*

*Allow only a short time for response.*

12. (Say) *God designed every single person. We are carefully made, and every day of our life matters to God and is a gift from God. We did not just happen - God made each and every person!*

13. (Say) *We have just discussed a fundamental truth from the Bible that sadly, many people do not know or believe. We know from the Bible that God created us, we are made in His image, and we are valuable to God. Are there other beliefs held by people in this community about where people come from? Who created them and for what purpose? What are these other beliefs?*

*Allow several minutes to discuss this.*

*If necessary, remind them to be respectful of what other people believe. It is important to understand what people believe as we go to serve them.*

*(Summarize, say) It is easy to forget that we are made in God's image, and to forget that others are too. One of our roles as leaders in the church is to always remind people that everyone is made in the image of God. This is very important*

### **Reflection - 15 minutes**

14. (Say) *Listen to this short story:*

*In India, there was a woman. Her name was Mother Teresa. She set up asylums to care for people who were dying on the streets so that they might die with dignity. Many people criticized her, saying that there were already too many people in India so why did she help those who were dying already.*

15. (Ask):

- a. What was the main problem Mother Teresa addressed in this story?  
Read the story several times if necessary.

*(Answer: People who were homeless and dying in the streets)*

- b. What are the two different responses to the problem shown in the story?

*Answer:*

- 1. Mother Teresa's - give dignity to people - showing their value and worth by providing a place to die in.*
- 2. Leave people to die with no dignity on the streets - not valuing their lives.*

- c. Are there people in this community who are like those who Mother Teresa values in this story?

*If needed, probe by asking:*

- i. Are there people who are homeless?
  - ii. Are there people who are forgotten?
  - iii. Are there people that are considered less valuable than others? Or less important than others?
- d. How are these people treated by members of the church? By members of the community? Do you think people in your church or your community respond to these people more like Mother Teresa did or more like the other people in the story? Why do you think so?

Allow several minutes for response.

### **Application - 15 minutes**

16. (Say) *Let us look at one more scripture. (Ask) Who can tell me what John 3:16 says? Ask someone who doesn't speak up much to respond if they can.*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. –John 3:16*

17. (Ask)
- a. In these verses, why does God send His Son?

*Response: Because God so loved the world.*

- b. What was the purpose in sending His Son?

*Response: so that whoever believes in him shall have eternal life; so they will not perish.*

- c. Did this scripture say that God sent His Son to die for us because we are good?

*Response: No, God did not send His Son because we are good, but because He loves the world.*

*(Explain): God sent His son because He loves us, not because we are good. In Romans 5:8 the Scripture says: (Read the Scripture below):*

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

18. *(Explain): So none of us is good; we are all sinners and deserving of condemnation. God intervened on our behalf, to make it possible to be back in a right relationship. God sent His son to die for us because of his great love for each one of us personally, and for everyone in the world. He does not want to condemn us, but to save us. He sent His Son so we could have life and salvation through a loving relationship with God through Christ. God's love is a gift for us, that we cannot earn.*

19. *(Ask) How important does God think people are? What words in this scripture tell us what God feels toward all people?*

*(Prompt people to this conclusion)*

*(Answer: God was willing to send His son to die for us. He loves us with a sacrificial love. God thinks all people are very important!)*

20. *(Ask) What can we conclude from all these passages today? I will write our ideas up. Prompt for ideas if none are offered after a short time.*

*Possible responses include: All people are made in God's image. God carefully forms every single person. God loves every single person with a sacrificial love. You are very valuable to God. I am very valuable to God. Every person in this community is valuable to God. We love others because God loves each of us. We love others because they are precious to God. We learn how we are to love by following Jesus' example of loving others (outcasts, sinners, etc.-)*

21. *(Say) I am going to write up our key message for today - based on what you have concluded. While I do that, please think about what we just talked about and what does it mean for the way we treat people.*

Write up the key message on a flipchart.

### **Session 2 Key Message**

God is the Creator of all people. We are all made in God's image and are very precious to God. We are God's image bearers. We are to love others as God loves us.



22. (Say) Can you repeat this out loud with me several times?  
*Repeat the key message slowly, out loud, 2 or 3 times more.*

23. (Say) Let us think about the story of Mother Teresa again. Why do you think she would care for those dying people? What do you think God feels for those dying people?

*Allow some time for discussion.*

*Possible responses include: Because she knows they are made in God's image. Because she knows they are precious and very loved by God. She knows she is called to love others as God loves us.*

24. (Say) When a famous reporter asked Mother Teresa why she cared for people on the streets in the way she did, Mother Teresa said that serving the people who are dying on the streets of India was the same as serving Jesus. She said this:

*I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has [a disease]; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus.*

25. (Ask) Why do you think that serving someone dying on the street is the same as serving Jesus?

*Allow a short time for discussion.*

*Possible responses include: If God is the Creator, and we are made in His image, then each person reflects Jesus.*

26. (Ask) Would everyone in your community say they feel valuable and precious to God by the way we treat them? Make it a personal question and not a general one.

*Allow a short time for discussion.*

### **Take-home Task – 10 minutes**

27. (Say) Your take home task this week is to re-read Psalm 139: 13-16. First, meditate on how this passage challenges you personally – your beliefs and your behaviors. Ask yourself:
- a. Do you treat only some people well and other people not so well?
  - b. Ask God to forgive you where you have not treated people in a way that pleases him. Ask God to show you how He sees people.

*Then, as you walk around your community, look carefully for people who are not treated in a way that shows how precious they are to God. Identify one person that you can love and serve this week to show their value and to show God's love to them.*

Next session, we will share how we have served this one person, and create a list of all the different vulnerable and undervalued people you think there are in this community.

28. *(Ask) Are there any questions about this?*

Allow time to discuss questions. Make sure it is clear that this act of love and service doesn't have to be a big thing. If anything, it should be something done that no one else needs to know about.

29. *(Ask) How many of you are willing now to commit to doing this task by our next session?*

(Allow time to respond. Look for verbal commitments from people first. This time, invite people to also write their name if they are able to on the flipchart below the scripture.)

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

*Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.*

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message*
- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*
- *Share the content of the next session*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another*
- *Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer*

### **Source Acknowledgments**

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## Session 3 - Growing in Wisdom, Physically, Socially and Spiritually

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or sticky tack
- Bible
- Multiple small pieces of paper or sticky notes for every participant
- Pens or pencils for every participant.
- Annex 4 - The Four Areas of Jesus Development Planner - copy for every participant and some spares. (Modify the symbols to suit the participants)
- Annex 5 - The Four Areas of Jesus Development Planner - example for facilitator reference only
- It is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 2.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time)

### Objectives

1. Shared their experience of identifying and loving someone who is undervalued in their community.
2. Brainstormed further ideas about people who are not valued in their community, and how they could demonstrate God's love for them.
3. Identified the four areas of development highlighted in Luke 2:52: Wisdom, Physical, Spiritual, Social.
4. Classified things children need to develop into the four areas of development.
5. Concluded that God cares about all areas of development.
6. Analyzed ideas for demonstrating God's value to others based on the four areas of development.
7. Commenced their personal Four Areas of Development planner for an individual, themselves and their family.
8. Committed to completing their development planner, and helping someone who is not valued in their community to develop in a different development area

### Key Message

God cares about all areas of our lives. People are intended to grow in their wisdom, and intended to grow physically, spiritually and socially.

## Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes  
 Activity 1- 60 minutes  
 Take-home Task – 10 minutes  
 Closing - 5 minutes

## Session Opening - 15 minutes

### Introduction

Plan time to:

- *Welcome everyone*
- *Take a record of attendance*
- *Open the session with Prayer*
- *Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship*

### Review of take-home task

1. (Ask) Who can remember last session’s key message?

### Session 2 Key Message

God is the Creator of all people. We are all made in God’s image and are very precious to God. We are to love others as God loves us.

2. (Ask) Would 1 or 2 of you please briefly share your experience identifying someone who is regularly undervalued in the community, and what you did to love them and show their value?

Allow time for 1 or 2 people to share.

3. (Say) Let us now hear the ideas all of you had. I will write them up:

Write up or draw their responses as shown in the diagram:

- a. First - Who are some of the people who are not valued in this community?

Encourage several people to respond.

- b. Second - How could we demonstrate to these people that they are important to God?

Encourage several people to respond.

People who are not valued	How to demonstrate their importance to God
xxxxxx..... xxxxxxxx.....	xxxxx..... xxxxxx.....

4. *(To conclude, say)* This is a great list. We re-look at this list later. Well done for doing these take-home tasks.

**Session Objective**

5. *(Say)* Today we are going to be looking at the perfect man - Jesus - and see what he needed to grow. He was made in God’s image just as we are. Looking at how he developed can help us know how all people should be developing.

**Activity 1- 60 minutes**

**Introduction - 5 minutes**

6. *(Say)* I’m going to pass out some pieces of paper and a pen. Please think about everything a child needs to grow: from babyhood to adulthood. Please write or draw examples of the things a child needs on these small pieces of paper. Feel free to list as many things as you can think of. You have four minutes.



*If examples are needed, consider the following:*

*Babyhood: warmth, comfort, food, clothing, diapers, love*

*Childhood: love, encouragement, discipline, food, clothing, shelter, education*

*Adulthood: love, food, clothing, family, livelihood*

**Experience - 20 minutes**

7. *(At the end of the four minutes, say)* Now let us open up our Bibles to Luke 2:52. Let us hear the scripture Luke 2:52 which talks about when Jesus was a child. It says:

*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and people. – Luke 2:52*

*Write the scripture at the top of a flipchart page*

- a. *(Say):* There are four different ways in this scripture that describe how Jesus developed when he was a child. What terms we can use to describe the different ways that Jesus grew?

**Areas of Jesus’ Development**






*(As people are brainstorming, draw up the Area of Jesus’ Development chart as shown here. After each response draw a symbol to represent the type of growth. Symbols below are suggested; you should use what is most appropriate in your context.*

- i. (Ask): What is the first way in which Jesus grew?

*Response: Wisdom (mental)*

*(Ask): What type of things indicate that a person is growing in 'wisdom'?*

*Possible responses include: Praying before making decisions, increasing communion with God, having a variety of experiences, increasing in knowledge, etc.-*

Areas of Jesus' Development			
Wisdom 	Physical 	Spiritual 	Social 

- ii. (Ask): What is the second way in which Jesus grew?

*Response: Stature (Physical)*

*(Ask): What type of things indicate that a person is growing in 'stature' like Jesus did?*

*Possible responses include: Getting taller, gaining more weight and other changes in appearance that indicate someone is changing from a child to an adult.*

- iii. (Ask): What about the third and fourth ways in which Jesus grew?

*Response: Favor with God (Spiritual), Favor with people (Social).*

*(Ask): What does it mean to grow in favor with God? How do we develop a spiritual relationship with God?*

*Possible responses include: Praying, reading the Bible, worship, fruits of the Spirit, etc.-*

*(Ask): What does it mean to grow in favor with people? How do we grow in our social relationships with others?*

*Possible responses include: Visiting with our neighbors, listening to others, forgiving others, thinking of others above ourselves, serving others, etc.-*

8. (Say) Now, think back to our conversation about the things that people need to grow, from babyhood to adulthood. Look at what you wrote on your cards, and come up and stick them in the column that fits the type of development you have listed.

- a. (Ask): Do we agree with where the cards are placed? Should we move any of them?

*Give the group one or two minutes to shuffle anything they believe should be moved. It is more important to understand the concept that we develop in four areas than it is to get the cards in the right place.*

### Reflection - 10 minutes

9. (Once everyone has placed up their cards, ask:)
  - a. Does anyone have any observations about this chart now?
  - b. Are the columns all equally filled in? Why or why not?
  - c. Do we naturally think that certain development areas deserve time or attention more than others? (For example, Physical is more important than Spiritual; or Social is more important than Wisdom?) Why?
  - d. The Bible says that Jesus developed in all these areas. Do we think all these areas are equally important?
  - e. Do we think all these areas are important for every single person in our community?

*After a few minutes of discussion, say:*

Jesus developed in four different areas of His life- Wisdom (mental), Physical, Spiritual and Social. Since we are intended to walk as Jesus did, then we ought to develop in these four areas of our lives.

### Application - 25 minutes

10. (Say) Our key message for today is

#### **Session 3 Key Message**

God cares about all areas of our lives. People are intended to grow in their wisdom, and intended to grow physically, spiritually and socially.

*Write the key message up on a new flipchart page.*

11. (Ask) Can you say this out loud with me?  
(Slowly repeat the key message out loud 2 or 3 times)
12. (Ask) Does anyone have any questions or comments about this key message or what we have covered so far?

*Allow a short time for response.*

13. (Say) Now let's look at our list of Ways to Value People chart.

*Pull out the Ways to Value People flipchart from earlier in the session.*

14. (Ask) Now that we are thinking more specifically about the four different areas in which Jesus developed - are there any of these areas that we could think about to add to our current list of ideas on how to demonstrate peoples importance to God?

People who are not valued	How to demonstrate their importance to God
xxxxxx..... xxxxxx.....	xxxxx..... xxxxxx.....

*Allow about 5 minutes for brainstorming.*

*Prompt with ideas like:*

- a. *Can we show someone is valuable through physical actions?*
- b. *Can we show someone is valuable through spiritual actions?*

*Help the group to brainstorm at least three or four more ideas that are specific, simple, achievable, and respectful.*

*Add any ideas they have to the flipchart.*

15. (Say) It is good for us to keep a record of this chart. We are going to start a church folder of these sessions with this .Can someone from each church take a copy down for your folder at the end of the lesson?

*Identify one person from each church that can take down a copy.*

*If your manager has approved the purchase of folder for each church hand out one per church. If not, encourage church leaders to have a folder to store the material that they will develop through our the training.*

16. (Say) Now we are going to look specifically at how we can apply this in our own lives.

(Hand out a blank form from Annex 4 to every participant, say)

This planner encourages you to think how people can be developing in all four areas.

*Point out the columns.* The columns identify the fours areas of development as we saw earlier in the lesson.

*Point out the rows.* These rows are here so you can apply the idea of the four areas of development for yourself, your family, your church, and your community.



(Say) Take 5 minutes now to think about the person who you served last week. Put them in the top row that is left blank. Fill in the way in which you helped them in the most appropriate dimension, and then think about if there is a different way in which you could serve them this week.

You can use some of these ideas that we just discussed if that helps. Draw or write in your ideas.



FACILITATOR: MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PREPARED THE COPIES OF ANNEX 4 WITH THE SAME SYMBOLS AT THE TOP OF THE COLUMNS AS YOU ARE USING IN THE LESSON. YOU MAY ALSO ADD IN APPROPRIATE SYMBOLS FOR THE ROWS OF 'MYSELF', 'FAMILY', 'CHURCH' AND 'COMMUNITY' IF IT WILL HELP. SEE ANNEX 5 FOR EXAMPLES.

ANNEX 4:

The Four Areas of Jesus' Development				
People	Wisdom	Physical	Spiritual	Social
<b>For myself</b>				
<b>In my family</b>				
<b>In my church</b>				
<b>In my community</b>				

Try and visit each person briefly and help them with ideas as necessary. Use Annex 5 to help you brainstorm with them.

- (After five minutes, say) Now, lets take another 5 minutes to start filling in this planner in for yourself and your family. Try and think of ways you can help yourself develop in these four areas, and your family develop in these four areas.

**Take-home Task – 10 minutes**

- (Say) There are two take-home tasks this week. The first is to show love to the person you identified in a different area of development to the way you did last time. The only rule for this task is that you do something small, easy to complete, and something you're not already doing.

The second is to complete this planning chart with ideas of how you can help your church develop in each of these areas, and how you can help your community develop in each of these areas.

19. *(Ask)* Are there any questions?

Make sure the two tasks are clear in everyone's mind. Answer any questions they have. Encourage them to work together with others to complete their charts if they wish.

20. *(To end, say)* Turn to a partner now and share your plan for the first take-home task - to serve the individual you served last time. Pray for each other, that God will give you the ability to complete your commitments.

Allow time for them to share and pray in their pairs.

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

*Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.*

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message*
- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*
- *Share the content of the next session*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another*
- *Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer*

REMIND THE PARTICIPANTS TO TAKE DOWN A COPY OF THE **WAYS TO VALUE CHART**

### **Source Acknowledgements**

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## Session 4 - Who should help?

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Tape or tack
- Bible
- Extra flipchart paper and markers for each church group
- 1 copy per group of the Church Group Activity Instructions (Annex 6)

### Objectives

1. Shared their experience of helping someone develop in one of the four areas of individual development, and completing the development planner.
2. Analyzed their church ministries in the categories of righteous action from Matt 25:31-46
3. Brainstormed the application of Isaiah 58:1-10 to their churches today.
4. Reflected on God's promises for obedience to his Word.
5. Considered the impact of every church members serving those who are suffering and vulnerable, and how they could encourage that behavior
6. Committed to completing their church ministry chart and brainstorming how to encourage church members to serve

### Key Message

God wants us - the Church, God's people - to help those who are suffering and vulnerable.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 - 60 minutes

Take-home Task - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

*Plan time to:*

- *Welcome everyone*
- *Take a record of attendance*
- *Open the session with Prayer*
- *Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship*

### Review of take-home task

1. *(Ask)* Can someone remember what the Key Message was in the last session?

### Session 3 Key Message

God cares about all areas of our lives. People are intended to grow in their wisdom, and intended to grow physically, spiritually and socially.

2. *(Say)* Let's hear how some of you did with the take-home task.  
(Ask the following questions two or three times, allowing someone to respond with their story after each one, and encouraging them for their actions)
  - a. Who can tell us how you helped someone?
  - b. What area of development did you address?
  - c. Do you think the person felt valued through this action? What makes you think that?
3. *(Ask)* How did you all go completing the development planner chart? Can we hear from some other people?  
(Ask these questions to help deepen the discussion)
  - a. Did you work with others to help you complete the chart? What was useful about that?
  - b. Did you find it easier to think of ways to help people in some areas more than others? Which areas and why?
4. *(Say)* I am so encouraged by your stories and work. I hope you will continue to use these development planners as you look to develop yourselves and others in your family, church and community.

### Session Objective

5. *(Summarize)* In Session 2, we learned that all people are created in God's image, and all are equally valuable. We also know that God desires everyone to develop in the four areas of wisdom, physical development, spiritual development and social development.
6. *(Say)* Some of you may be wondering - how is that realistic? How is it possible to have that happen? Today we are going to look at who God has called to meet these development needs and value everyone equally.

## Activity 1 - 60 minutes

### Introduction - 15 minutes

7. *(Say)* Let's start by sitting in our church groups. Open your Bible to Matthew 25:31-46. I will give each group a large sheet of paper, and instructions for the activity. You will have 10 minutes to complete this activity.

*Hand out the Church Group Activity Instructions (Annex 6), 1 large sheet of paper and markers to each group.*

*Visit each group to check that they understand the instructions and are completing the task.*

*After the groups have had about 10 minutes, call the group back together. Tell them they do not need to have completed the task now.*

#### Church Group Activity Instructions.

1. Draw up a large table like the one shown below.
2. Identify the six different things that the 'sheep' did.
3. Label each section with one of them.
4. Now, think about your church and the serving ministries it currently has towards both Christians and non-Christians.
5. Write or draw each ministry your church has within a category on your page. If your ministries do not fit under the six identified by Jesus, list it in the 7<sup>th</sup> "other" column.

8. *(Ask)* How did completing this church ministry chart go? What can you observe so far?

*Allow some time so share.*

*Possible responses include:*

- a. *Some categories of ministry that the sheep did are not filled at all.*
- b. *Many activities or ministries that we have in our churches fit into the "other" category.*
- c. *Jesus included a lot of physical service in his examples of "righteous ministry".*

### Experience - Large Group Brainstorm - 20 minutes

9. *(Say)* Thanks for your observations. Now let's look up Isaiah 58: 1-10 and study it together.

*Write the scripture reference up on a flipchart.*

10. *(Say)* Isaiah was writing to the Israelites who were God's chosen people. They are an example for the church today.

*Have a volunteer read the verses.*

<sup>1</sup> *“Shout it aloud, do not hold back.  
Raise your voice like a trumpet.  
Declare to my people their rebellion  
and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.*

<sup>2</sup> *For day after day they seek me out;  
they seem eager to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that does what is right  
and has not forsaken the commands of its God.  
They ask me for just decisions  
and seem eager for God to come near them.*

<sup>3</sup> *‘Why have we fasted,’ they say,  
‘and you have not seen it?  
Why have we humbled ourselves,  
and you have not noticed?’*

*“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please  
and exploit all your workers.*

<sup>4</sup> *Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,  
and in striking each other with wicked fists.  
You cannot fast as you do today  
and expect your voice to be heard on high.*

<sup>5</sup> *Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,  
only a day for people to humble themselves?  
Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed  
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?  
Is that what you call a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?*

<sup>6</sup> *“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:  
to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke,  
to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke?*

<sup>7</sup> *Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—  
when you see the naked, to clothe them,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?*

<sup>8</sup> *Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness<sup>[a]</sup> will go before you,  
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.*

<sup>9</sup> Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

*"If you do away with the yoke of oppression,  
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,  
<sup>10</sup> and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.*

- Isaiah 58:1-10

11. (Ask) Who can summarize these verses? What were the Israelites doing?

*Give people time to respond to the following questions in order. Encourage them to look for the answers in the verses provided for you here. Where necessary - read aloud the relevant verses again.*

*Possible responses include:*

- *Verses 3, 5: They thought they were seeking God by fasting, bowing their heads, lying in sackcloth and ashes. They were being falsely "spiritual".*
- *Verses 3, 4: They were doing as they pleased, exploiting workers, quarreling and fighting and striking each other.*
- *Verse 9: They were oppressing people, pointing their fingers at others and talking maliciously.*

a. (Ask) What was God's reaction to these people?

*Answer: Verse 3: He did not respond to them*

b. (Ask) Why did God react in this way?

*Answer: Verses 1 and 2: His people were in rebellion to Him, they had forsaken his commands.*

c. *Ask someone to write and/or draw up the responses to this next question on the flipchart for you. Ask: How did God want his people to act?*

*Answer:*

- *Verse 6: To fight injustice and set people free from bondage*
- *Verse 7: To share food with the hungry, provide shelter; clothe people, welcome people in.*
- *Verse 9: To stop oppressing people, 'pointing the finger' and malicious talk.*

- *Verse 10: To sacrificially (“Spend yourself”) meet the needs of the hungry and oppressed.*

**Reflection - 15 minutes**

12. *(Ask)* Look at this list of how God wants his people to act. Does it look familiar? What does it remind you of?

*Response: It is similar to the list from Jesus’ description of the action of the righteous in Matthew 25.*

13. *(To summarize, say)* Let us consider the key message for this lesson.

**Session 4 Key Message**

God wants us- the church, God’s people- to help those who are suffering and vulnerable.

*Write up the Key Message on flipchart paper.*

14. *(Say)* We can see that God was not happy with his people who said they were His people, yet their actions toward their fellow brothers and others did not demonstrate their faith and Gods love for all people.

15. *(Ask)* Can you please read this key message with me a couple of times? Read the key message out slowly and clearly 2 or 3 more times.

16. *(Say)* It is important to note however, that just doing good things is not what God wants either. Jesus says in Matthew 7:21-23:

<sup>21</sup>“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ <sup>23</sup>And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

17. *(Say)* Why did Jesus not know them? Because even though they did amazing things in his name - they did not have a relationship with him, so their actions were not a demonstration of their relationship with him. We cannot separate our hearts and spirits from our actions and duties. They need to work together.

18. *(Say)* Now let’s look back at what God promised to do if his people did the things he required of them. Look back at Isaiah 58:8-10.

*(Ask someone to re-read verses 8-10)*



<sup>8</sup> Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup> Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

*"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,<sup>10</sup> and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,*

*then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.*

*- Isaiah 58: 8-10*

19. (Ask) What does God promise to do if we respond in obedience to his Word?

Answer:

- Verse 8: To bring healing. To be their glory and protection.
- Verse 9: To answer their call, to be there for them.
- Verse 10: To help them defeat darkness and bring light in their community.

20. (Ask) What does it mean, your light will rise in the darkness, or you will defeat darkness? What are the places of darkness in this community?

*Allow a few minutes for discussion. Examples could include where people are suffering, oppressed, etc.*

21. (Ask) What are ways that churches can be "light" into our community?

*Allow a short time for discussion. If relevant highlight that much of what we will cover in this session will, we pray, be helping the churches be light in their community.*

22. (Say) How encouraging it is to know that God will be with us, will protect us, and will bless our churches and our community if we act in obedience to these words.

(Ask) How do these promises make you feel?

*Allow time for 2 people to respond.*

### Application - 10 minutes

23. (Say) Lets look again at our key message:

### Session 4 Key Message

God wants us- the church, God's people- to help those who are suffering and vulnerable.

24. *(Ask)* What would be the impact on your community if all the members of your church helped those who are suffering and vulnerable?  
(Possible answers include:
- a. They would have a positive impression of the church
  - b. Their lives would improve
  - c. They would be more open to learning about God)
25. *(Ask)* How could you encourage every member of your church to become involved in helping those who are suffering and vulnerable? This can seem a hard question to answer - because often people in the church are suffering and vulnerable too. However, the bible says the Christians in churches form the body of Christ. The truth is that all of us are gifted with different gifts needed for the body to function - even those who are considered poor and suffering. I'd like you to spend these last few minutes back in your church groups, reading and beginning to talk through 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 as it applies to your church.

*Write the scripture reference up.*

*Visit each group briefly to make the task clear.*

*After 8 minutes, invite everyone back together.*

### **Take-home Task - 10 minutes**

26. *(Say)* There are two take-home tasks this week:
27. *(Say)* First - Take the chart of your ministries that you began today and complete it if you have not already with your church leadership group. You will need to keep a copy of it in your church folder for use later in these sessions.
- Second - Continue to read and study 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 with your leadership group. Pray together and discuss this question:
- How can we encourage every member of our church to help those who are suffering and vulnerable - whether they are other members of the church or people outside the church?
- Record your ideas on paper and keep them in your church folder.
28. *(Ask)* Are there any questions? Would you like me to repeat or write these tasks up?
- Allow time for people to ask questions, clarify, and prepare in their groups the take-home tasks.

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.

Plan time at the end to:

- Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message
- Discuss the next meeting time and place
- Share the content of the next session
- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another
- Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer

#### **Source Ideas**

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## Session 5 - Love God and Love our Neighbor

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation



1. Flipchart
2. Markers
3. Tape or tack
4. Bible
5. 1 Copy of Annex 7, pre-cut - “Salt” and “Light” Group Activity Guides.
6. 1 Copy of Annex 8, pre-cut - Scripture Call Out Verses
7. 1 Copy of Annex 9, pre-cut - Cross Activity Verses
8. 1 Copy of Annex 10, pre-cut - Take-home Task Instructions
9. Materials to make outline of cross (stick, chalk, or string - see below for context)

FACILITATOR: IT IS RECOMMENDED TO PLACE EACH ANNEX'S PRE-CUT PIECES IN DIFFERENT LABELED PLASTIC SLEEVES OR ENVELOPES FOR EASY ACCESS DURING THE LESSON.

### Objectives

By the end of this session, church leaders will have:

1. Discussed in small groups what it means to be ‘salt’ and ‘light’ in the community
2. Shares ideas of how to involve all their church body in serving the vulnerable
3. Listed to and summarized the great commandments
4. Examined the relationship between loving others and loving God
5. Committed to studying the story of the Good Samaritan

### Key Message

God has called us to love him, and love our neighbor.

### Session Opening - 20 minutes

#### Introduction

*Plan time to:*

- *Welcome everyone*
- *Take a record of attendance*
- *Open the session with Prayer*
- *Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship*

#### Review of take-home task(s) & Introduction

1. (Ask) Can someone remember what the Key Message was in the last session?

**Session 4 Key Message**

God wants his people - the church - to help those who are suffering and vulnerable.

2. *(Say)* To begin today, let's divide into two groups. Please join with people from different churches - make sure each group has at least one representative from your church.
3. *Once they are divided in their groups, give out the "Salt" and "Light" Small Group Activity Instructions from Annex 7. Tell them they have 5 minutes for discussion.*

**"Salt" Small Group Activity**

1. Read Matthew 5:13
2. Discuss:
  - Why does Jesus say that Christians are "the salt of the earth"?
  - How can we be like "Salt"?
  - In what ways could we lose our "Saltiness"?
3. Choose a person to share a summary with the larger group.

**"Light" Small Group Activity**

1. Read Matthew 5:14-16
2. Discuss:
  - Do we sometimes try to cover up the "light"?
  - How can we shine more brightly?
3. Choose a person to share a summary with the larger group.

*After 5 minutes, ask them to form one large group again.*

4. *(Say)* Each group has just discussed what it means for us to be salt and light in our community. Can one person from each group please summarize what you learned or discussed? Who would like to go first?  
*Encourage each person to share a short summary of his or her group's discussion.*
5. *(Ask)* Can someone else now from each church now share one idea they had of how they could involve every church member in helping the suffering and vulnerable?  
*Encourage one person from each church to share briefly.*

**Session Objective**

6. *(Say)* We are called to be salt and light in our community. We know that God is concerned about hurting and vulnerable people. We know God wants us to be concerned too. Now we are going to look more closely at the commands of Jesus and what they mean for us and for our churches.

## Activity - 55 minutes

### Experience - 20 minutes

7. (Say) I'm handing out various scripture references to people who can read them for us. I will ask you to read one at a time.

*Hand out the papers you prepared from Annex 8.*

8. (Say) Can someone please read Matthew 22:36-40?

<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"  
<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."  
Matthew 22: 36-40

9. (Say) And let's hear now Mark 12: 28-31 and verse 33.

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"  
<sup>29</sup> "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'<sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."  
<sup>33</sup> To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."  
Mark 12:28-31, 33.

10. (Ask) According to what we just heard, what is the greater of the two commands? (Response: Love the Lord our God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.)

*Pause for a response, then) What is the second most important command?  
Ask the person to re-read the scripture if necessary.*

11. What does Jesus say about loving your neighbor?  
*Guide a brief discussion to draw out the following possible responses.*
  - a. It is 'like' loving the Lord your God.
  - b. It is extremely important
  - c. It is inseparable from loving the Lord
  - d. We cannot fully love God without loving our neighbor

12. (Say) Now let's hear Matthew 7:12

*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*  
*Matthew 7:12*

13. (Say) And Romans 13:9

<sup>9</sup> *The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*  
*Romans 13:9*

14. (Say) And Galatians 5:14

<sup>14</sup> *For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*  
*Galatians 5:14*

15. (Say) Thank you for all those readings!

(Ask) According to what we just read, how important is loving our neighbors?  
And what does Jesus want to see us do for our neighbors?

*Allow some time for response.*

16. (Ask) Why do you think Jesus chose to summarize the Law and the Prophets using this command?

*Allow the participants to think of their own answers. Look for the conclusion that it is because we demonstrate our love for God through our actions.*

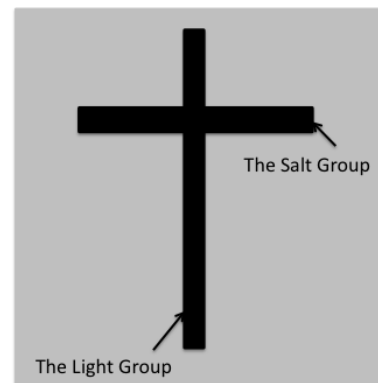
### Cross activity - 15 minutes

17. (Say) Let's divide into our two "Salt and Light" groups again, but this time stay standing.

*Once divided, ask two people from the 'salt' group to join the 'light' group.*

*Then, ask the two groups to stay in their groups, but work together to form the shape of a cross by standing in lines, holding hands.*

*The "Light" group, having more people, can form the longer length of the cross; the "Salt" group, the shorter length*



18. *Once they have formed the cross - give out the three scripture texts from Annex 9 for people to read. While people are standing there, ask:*

Can the person with 1 John 5:3 read for us?

<sup>3</sup> *In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome...*  
1 John 5:3

19. (Ask) According to Scripture, how do we love God?

*Allow time for a response. Ask the person to repeat if necessary.*

*Response: by keeping his commands.*

20. (Ask) What is his main command that summarizes all others?

*Allow time for a response.*

*Response: by loving our neighbor as ourselves (Gal 5:14)*

21. (Ask) Let's now hear James 1:27

<sup>27</sup> *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*  
James 1:27

22. (Say) Thank you, and let's hear 1 John 3:17

*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?*  
1 John 3:17

23. (Ask) Is it possible to love God, or show the love of God, without loving our neighbor?

*Allow time for a response.*

*Response: No*

24. (Say) Thank you for standing where you have been. I'm going to mark an outline around the shape you've made, and then you can sit down.

*Draw an outline of the cross all around them on the ground, using chalk, or marking with string or something else.*



DECIDE HOW YOU WILL DO THIS, DEPENDING ON WHAT TYPE OF CLASSROOM OR LOCATION YOU HOLD YOUR LESSONS.



**Reflection and Application - 20 minutes**

25. *Once everyone is seated, ask:*

What is the relationship between our love for God and our response to people's needs?

*Allow some time for discussion. Help guide the participants to draw out these two conclusions:*

- a. If we love God then we will demonstrate that by loving our neighbor and responding to their needs.
- b. If we say that we love God but do not love our neighbor, then it shows that we don't truly love God.

26. *(Ask)* Do you think loving our neighbor as we love ourselves is an easy thing to do? Why or why not?

*Allow some time for discussion.*

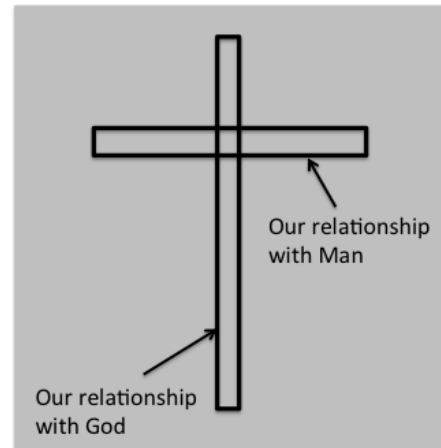
27. *(Explain)* This shape of the cross you made here is a diagram to remind us of this principle.

28. *Go and stand on the longest length of the cross, then say:*

This biggest, upward line represents our relationship with God, and our need to love God. This is the greatest commandment.

29. *Move to the smaller line, say:*

This smaller, horizontal line represents our relationship with each other, our neighbors, and our need to love our neighbors as ourselves. This command is equally important to God.



30. *Move back to your seat, say:*

Imagine we tried to hold this cross up without the relationship with each other - the horizontal line. What would happen?

*Answer: It would fall over - there is no balance. You cannot love God without loving man or your neighbor.*

31. *(Ask)* What would happen if we tried to love our neighbors without loving God? Can we have the horizontal line without the vertical?

*Answer: You can't - it would be in the dirt. We need God to help us love others and have good relationships.*

32. Write up the key message for today on a flipchart page. Ask someone to read it.

### **Key Message Session 5**

*God has called us to love him, and love our neighbor.*

33. (Ask) How does this call to love our neighbor as much as we love God make you feel? What does it make you think about? What questions do you have?

*Allow some time for discussion.*

34. (Ask) What do you think this means for you and your churches right now?

*Allow some time for discussion. Encourage them to make commitments to some new or different actions or behavior between now and the next session.*

### **Take-home Task - 10 minutes**

35. (Say) Our take-home task for this week is to study the story of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10:30-37 by organizing to have the story acted out and then discussing it with members of your church. Here is a handout for you to take - we can talk through it now.

*Hand out copies of Annex 10 to every church group. Read through the instructions and discuss any questions.*

**Session 5: Take-home Task**

Study the story of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10: 30-37. Try and do this with as many members of your church as possible.

1. Gather a small group of older children or youth. Have them practice acting out the parts of the story while you read the story.

Parts might include: the man (victim), robbers, a priest, a Levite, a Samaritan, a Jew, an innkeeper.

2. Call together a larger group of people. Read the story, and have the children act the parts as practiced.

3. Then, ask everyone to discuss these questions:

- i. Which of the three men was a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?
- ii. What does this mean for us now, in this community? Who is our neighbor? And,
- iii. How can we show love to our neighbors now?

Allow everyone to respond and ask questions. Look for new ideas that you haven't heard before!

36. *(Say)* Next time, I look forward to hearing the responses and ideas that you have.

37. *(Ask)* Are there any more questions? Can you raise your hand if you think you will be able to do this activity?

38. *(Say)* You can also continue to find ways to help someone develop or serve someone in need during this time. We want to keep being salt and light in our community.

**Closing - 5 minutes**

*Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.*

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message*
- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*
- *Share the content of the next session*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another*
- *Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer*

**Source Ideas**

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## Session 6 - How to help

### Time

90 minutes

\*\* if the group has not experienced the 'River-Crossing' role play or story, prepare for another 15 minutes of lesson time

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- 2 Flipchart papers and markers for small group work
- Tape or tack
- Bible
- Annex 11 - Advanced Materials and Preparation required for 'River-Crossing' Role-play/Story

### Objectives

1. Shared their experiences and reflections on the Good Samaritan story.
2. Reviewed the 'River Crossing' play/story
3. Discussed how loving and serving others in ways build on existing strengths and assists others to develop new skills can bring lasting change
4. Examined a case-study of a family in need, identified their strengths, and proposed ways to meet those needs
5. Committed to helping one family in need

### Key Message

We are to love others in ways that build on their existing strengths and encourages people toward their God-given potential.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1– 60 minutes

Take-home task - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Notes to the Facilitator

The River Crossing Role Play/Story outline can be found in Annex 11. You will need to be very familiar with it and the manner in that it was conducted in the community, and with the community leaders earlier. If it has not already been conducted in the community, start the activity section of the lesson with the whole of Annex 11 and then continue on to Point 9.

## Session Opening - 15 minutes

### Introduction

*Plan time to:*

- *Welcome everyone*
- *Take a record of attendance*
- *Open the session with Prayer*
- *Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship*

### Review of take-home task(s)

1. (Ask) Can someone tell us what the Key Message was in the last session?

### Key Message Session 5

*God has called us to love him, and love our neighbor.*

2. (Ask) How did you go completing the take-home task? You were going to organize church members to act out and discuss the story of the Good Samaritan. Can someone share with us your experience and what you learned?

*Encourage one person to share their experience and what their group learned.*

3. (Ask) What did the story teach all of you about whom our neighbors are for us today, in this community?

Allow a brief time for discussion.

Answer - our neighbor is anyone, people we see often, including our enemy.

4. (Deepen the discussion with this question, ask) Are there people in this community who are similar to the man in this story? People who are in need, but are ignored? Who would you say they are?

*Allow a brief time for further discussion. Look for 2 or 3 people or people types to be identified.*

5. (Ask) Did you hear any new ideas about how to serve your neighbors that you hadn't thought of before?

*Allow a short time for discussion.*

6. (Say) Why do you think the priest and the Levite did not help the victim in the story?

*Allow a short time for discussion.*

*Answer: They were so busy being 'religious'- following their own rules - that they ignored the more important part of the law, which is to love our neighbor. In their desire to be "spiritual" they ignored the real heart of Jesus.*

7. (Ask) What does this story teach us about how we should show love to our neighbor? Did the Good Samaritan do just enough, or more than necessary?

*Allow a short time for discussion.*

*Answer: he did more than necessary. He carried the man to safety. He found someone to care for him. The man paid for the victim's care, and then returned to make sure the victim was safe.*

### **Session Objective**

(Say) Sometimes our neighbors are those who live near us. Other times, they are people we encounter. No matter where they are, we are called to love them, to love all people that we encounter. But how are we to do that? This session is going to look more at how we can best love and serve our neighbor.

### **Activity 1– 60 minutes**

#### **Experience – 20 minutes (+15 minutes if necessary)**

8. (Ask) Who has heard of the "River Crossing" Role Play or Story? Some of you may have attended meetings earlier where some people from FH may have introduced this story.
- a. *If someone can, ask if they would be able to help perform it for the group again. Offer to help them where necessary to make them feel comfortable.*
  - b. *If, after a lot encouragement no one can remember, or they are too shy or nervous to indicate that they can, then you will need to facilitate the role-play or story, and questions (outlined in Annex 11).*
  - c. *Try and encourage the group to help you complete the story as you go through.*
  - d. *If you know the group has not experienced the 'River Crossing' Role Play or Story before, begin this activity with the whole of Annex 11 first.*

9. *(Say)* Until now, we have looked at the river-crossing story in terms of the decisions that the two people who wanted to cross the river made. We now want to think about this story from the perspective of the person who helped the 2 people cross the river.

10. *Ask the following questions . Encourage different people to share their ideas.*

- a. What were the two ways that the man helped the people to cross the river?

*Answer: by carrying; and by teaching swimming.*

- b. Which person was better off in the end - the person who was carried or the person who was taught the new skill of swimming?

*Answer: the person who learned a new skill.*

- c. Which option do you think was easier for the man who helped?

*Possible responses include: It might have been quicker to just carry - but more dangerous. Teaching the man might have taken longer but would not have weighed as much - been physically easier. Teaching the man would be more rewarding, knowing he had forever impacted his life.*

- d. What strengths or potential did the people who wanted to cross the river already have?

*Answer: they were both strong enough physically to travel or swim. They were both motivated to cross the river.*

- e. *(Say)* The people that want to cross the river represent poor or vulnerable people that need help - the man that wants to help represents us. What happens if we do something for someone rather than first identifying what they do have and helping to build on that?

*Possible responses include: They miss an opportunity to grow and develop. We miss an opportunity to serve them in developing their God-given potential..*

*(Say)* Every single person is made in God's image and God has placed the potential for amazing development and growth in each and every person. We need to be respectful of that and always look for where God is at work in someone's life – even if they are facing extreme suffering and vulnerability at the time.

**Scripture Study – 20 minutes**

11. (Say) Lets look now at an example from the Bible. Open up to the story of Naomi and Ruth. Lets start at Ruth 1:22.

So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

Now Naomi had a relative on her husband’s side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.

<sup>2</sup> And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.”

Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter.” <sup>3</sup> So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

<sup>4</sup> Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “The LORD be with you!”

“The LORD bless you!” they answered.

<sup>5</sup> Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, “Who does that young woman belong to?”

<sup>6</sup> The overseer replied, “She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi.” <sup>7</sup> She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.’ She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter.”

<sup>8</sup> So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me.” <sup>9</sup> Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.” Ruth 1:22-2:9

12. Ask the following questions. Encourage different people to share their ideas.

- a. (Say) Lets first think about this story in terms of what strengths we hear.  
(Ask) What are some of the strengths or potential that Naomi and Ruth have?

*Prompt people to identify the following strengths: Family connections; Unity between the two of them; Ruth’s physical health and ability to work; Ruth’s motivation to work and serve her mother-in-law.*

- b. (Ask) What were some of the challenges Ruth and Naomi faced?

*Responses include: They were both widows and had no male children; We assume they were poor; Naomi was bitter at the hard life she had had – losing her husband and sons; Ruth was a foreigner.*



- c. (Ask) What system did God provide in those days to provide for people in poor or vulnerable positions like Naomi and Ruth, in a way that required them to still work and use their strengths ?

*Answer:* The system of gleaning behind harvesters. This enabled those who were able to do physical work to still access food and resources.

13. (Say) The Lord could have chosen many other ways to provide for Naomi and Ruth. Instead, he used their existing strengths – their family connections, Ruth’s willingness to obey her mother-in-law and be willing to work; and he put them in the path of a kind man who was a distant relative.  
By providing a system for the poor and vulnerable in that time to glean the grain that was left behind the regular harvest, the Lord provided a way to help those in need in a way that enabled them to use their skills and abilities and contribute to their own development. This is the best way to help others, whenever possible.

14. (Say) The key message for today is:

***Key Message Session 6***

We are to love others in ways that build on their existing strengths and encourage people toward their God-given potential.

15. *Write the key message up on a flipchart.*

16. (Say) Lets repeat this key message together several times.

*Repeat the key message slowly, out loud with the group, 2 or 3 times.*

17. (Ask) Does anyone have any questions?

*Allow some time for questions and discussion.*

18. We have talked a lot about serving others in ways that build on any existing strengths they have, so that they can reach their God-given potential Does our key message mean that we are never to give sacrificially to anyone?

a. *Lead the discussion to re-visit the Good Samaritan story.*

*Possible responses include [and the facilitator should point these out if they are not brought up by the group]:*

- There are times when sacrificial giving is necessary. Some examples include times of emergency.

- Sometimes we have to do something for another that they cannot do for themselves. Sometimes giving someone something is restoration of their value and worth – like caring for the very sick or an elderly parent.
- Giving sacrificially demonstrates the grace and unconditional love of God, and helps me to increase and demonstrate my trust in Him as provider and sustainer.
- However, we should always look for ways that builds on what people can do and helps people that give them skills and practical ways to help themselves. This is always a good thing for the long term.

**Application - 20 minutes**

19. *(Say)* Let's divide into groups of 3-4 people. Sit with people who are not in your church.

*As they are dividing up, hand out a large piece of flipchart paper and markers to each group*

20. *(Explain)* Listen to this story. Try to identify some of the strengths in the story as well as the needs you hear.

(Read this slowly and clearly)

Here is the story:

***A family in need***

There is a family that lives near your church. The husband is usually gone, but once every month or two he returns for a few days and brings back a little money for the family. The wife looks after their three children as best she can, trying to run a small but failing business. Usually, the children are running around barefoot, wearing very old clothes and not attending school even though they have shown promise when they do. They have a house on a small amount of land that is overgrown. The house is extremely run down and leaks terribly in the rain. Once when you passed the house, you heard the children crying because they were hungry.

6. *(Say)* Draw a line down the middle of your page. In your group, think about the strengths and the challenges you heard. On one side, write down or draw the potential or strengths that you heard. On the other side, write or draw some of the needs you heard in the story. I will read the story again, then you will have 5 minutes.

*Read the story again. Visit each group as they work. Help prompt them with ideas.*

7. *(After 5 minutes, ask)* What do you think one of the major needs the mother has?
- a. (Wait for 1 or 2 ideas.
  - b. Draw out this answer)
    - i. More than anything, this woman probably feels hopeless. Many people who aren't working aren't necessarily lazy as we might expect. Often they are overwhelmed by the difficulties of life and have trouble believing that they can change anything. Your most important job is to help them see that the situation can change by helping them to start changing. While a small gift like some rice to this family is okay, if you do that more than once you are just encouraging them to believe that they are hopeless. What they need is hope that life can change.
8. *(Say)* Now, please think of ways you could help this family by building on their existing strengths and helping them to develop. Write or draw your ideas down on this new sheet of paper. You have 5 minutes.  
(Hand out the new sheet of paper. Visit each group as they work. If necessary, prompt them with one or two of these ideas)
- c. Help the wife and younger children to earn some money. Do they have some land or any special skills? Note to the facilitator: Make sure that when churches are visiting a house where the women is by her self or where the women is a single mom, there is at least one women in the group.
  - d. Help the older children go to school. Take the mother with you to talk to people at the local government office and see if they can get a free school pass or if there is a literacy program running in your area. Find out what help is available.
  - e. Start visiting with the mother on a regular basis and encourage her to see that life can be different.
  - f. Help the family to rebuild the house. Ask a few people from the church to come and help with the work, but use the materials that the family has and the labor of the children. Eight year olds have plenty of energy!
  - g. Encourage the family to start a small garden on their land to grow vegetables so that they have a better diet.
  - h. Offer the family a few chicks and get someone in the church to help them learn about chicken farming. If necessary, keep the chickens at your house so the family isn't tempted to eat them immediately and ask one of the children to come every day to collect the eggs and look after the chickens. Make sure you teach them how to look after the chickens well.
  - i. Contact the husband and wife's family. Can they help in any way?
  - j. Help the family to better plan how to use the husband's money. Can they invest it into something else that will give them more money in the future? How can they better make it last for the whole time?

9. *(After 5 minutes, say)* Now let's hear 1 or 2 ideas from each group.
  - a. *After hearing from each group, share any of the ideas from above that have not been covered.*

### **Take-home task - 10 minutes**

1. *(Say)* For your take-home task for this week, I want you to select one family that you with your church leadership group will commit to love and serve. First, in your groups pray and ask God to show you one family in need. It doesn't have to be a family you know well right now. Ask God to reveal whom he wants you to serve.
2. Then, first get to know them, identifying their strengths or potential as well as their needs. Only after you have identified the strengths or potential they have, look to see how you can show God's love to them best – just like we did with this family in the exercise. How you best show God's love to them will depend - it might be by providing something, teaching something, organizing people in your church to help them. It may also be that the best things will take several months and not be able to be completed by the next session. That is OK, and in fact is probably best.
3. Next week, I will ask you to tell us a little about the family, the strengths you identified and how you felt you should serve them first.
4. *(Ask)* Are there any questions?

*Allow time to address any questions they have.*

5. *(After there has been some time of prayer, say)*  
If the family is one that you don't know well, make a plan to start visiting with them soon. Before you go each time, ask God to open your eyes and ears to really see the potential he has placed in them, and to understand their real problems and give you ideas on how you can help. Remember to keep praying for them as you help them and they begin to do things for themselves. Be willing to keep visiting once a month and serving in different ways for a year.

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

*Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.*

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message*
- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*
- *Share the content of the next session*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another*

- *Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer*

#### **Source Ideas**

Ho, A. 2012. *Truth Centered Transformation. Module One: Introduction to Wholistic Ministry. Teacher Guide.* Copyright © 2012. Published by Reconciled World ([www.reconciledworld.org](http://www.reconciledworld.org)) under terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 license.

River-crossing story:

FH Cambodia (2011). *Five Steps of Hope Handbook.*

Carter, Isabel. *Mobilising the Community: A PILLARS GUIDE*, Tearfund.

## Session 7 - Acts of love Part 1

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack
- Bible
- Annex 12 - the summary of key messages sessions 1-6
- Annex 13 - Small Group Study Guides

### Objectives

1. Shared the strengths they identified and their experience of helping a family move toward their God-given potential,
2. Heard an overview of the module to date.
3. Brainstormed the strengths, gifts and resources that God has given their church
4. Revisited the principle of demonstrating our love for God by loving others
5. Listened and reflected on a story of doing an Act of love in obedience to God
6. Discussed the importance of doing things in God's strength and for God's glory
7. Committed to brainstorming ideas on how their church can serve individuals, families, neighborhoods and the whole community, without spending any money

### Key Message

Acts of Love are done:

1. To show God's love
2. In obedience and gratitude to God
3. Through God's strength
4. So that God is glorified

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1- 60 minutes

Take-home Task - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

*Plan time to:*

1. *Welcome everyone*

2. *Take a record of attendance*
3. *Open the session with prayer*
4. *Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship*

#### **Review of take-home task(s)**

1. (Ask) Can someone tell us what the Key Message was in the last session?

#### **Key Message Session 6**

We are to love others in ways that build on their existing strengths and encourages people toward their God-given potential.

2. (Ask) Who would be willing to go first, sharing your experience so far of loving and serving the family you identified? Please tell us some strengths or potential you identified, and some of the ideas you have for how to love and serve neighbors.

*Encourage 1 or 2 groups to share for 2 minutes each.*

3. (After the groups have shared, ask) Did anyone notice something that surprised you as first identified the family's potential or strengths as you served that family? Or something that was very challenging you'd like to share? Can you share what your thoughts have been about this way of serving?

*Encourage one or two different people to share.*

4. (Say) It is so encouraging to hear these stories. I hope you continue to pray for and serve these families in the coming weeks.

#### **Session Objective(s) and Module Review**

5. (Say) Today we are going to start the first of two sessions considering what we call an Act of Love. These are the last two sessions of our first module: Loved by God, Loving God.
6. (Put up Annex 12, the summary of Key Messages in this Module, say) In the first few sessions of this module we looked at the Bible to create a foundation of truth to help us understand how precious all people are to God, what that means for us, and the way God cares about all areas of life.
7. (Read the first three key messages) Our Key Messages were:

#### **Key Messages in Sessions 1-3**

**Session 1:** We are to build our foundation on the Rock, on God's Word and His Truth. The Bible is God's Word to us.

**Session 2:** God is the Creator of all people. We are made in God's image and are very precious to God. We are to love others as God loves us.

**Session 3:** God cares about all areas of life. People are to grow in wisdom, and grow physically, spiritually and socially.

8. (Say) Then we looked more closely at how God calls us to love him. God wants us to love him by loving our neighbor, helping those who are suffering and vulnerable, and helping others in ways that build on their strengths and encourage them to develop their God-given potential.
9. (Read the next three key messages)

#### **Key Messages in Session 4-6**

**Session 4:** God wants us- the church, God's people- to help those who are suffering and vulnerable.

**Session 5:** God has called us to love him, and love our neighbor.

**Session 6:** We are to love others in ways that build on their existing strengths and encourages people toward their God-given potential.

10. (Say) To complete this module, we are going to look at these Acts of Love. Acts of Love are basically small projects that are done by your church to demonstrate God's love to your community – they could be directed toward individuals, families, neighborhoods or the whole community. Usually they are very simple and can be completed in a day. You have already been doing something similar to these as take-home tasks yourselves. Now we want to look at how you can plan to include your whole church in loving and serving the community.

### **Activity 1- 60 minutes**

#### **Introduction – Church Group Strengths Brainstorm - 10 minutes**

11. (Say) To begin, we are going to quickly think of all the different gifts and resources that God has given our church that could be used to help an individual, a family, a neighborhood or the community as a whole when doing an Act of Love. Please quickly get into your church groups and I will give you some paper to record your ideas.

(Once their groups are formed, say) Last week we talked a lot about looking at the potential or strengths of individual people and families. Now, I want you to think about



all the different strengths, resources, assets or potential that your church may have and be able to use or develop to be able to love and serve an individual, a family, a neighborhood or the community. You have about 10 minutes to do this.

Visit each group and make it clear that we are not talking about specific service ideas. We are talking about what strengths, resources or potential the Lord has given their church at this time to be able to serve with.

*For example: energetic youth; land; a clean water source; a building that could be shared or loaned out; several literate people; mothers who love to dance.*

*Make sure the groups consider the different areas of resources. If you hear their discussion focusing on one area, encourage them to think of others. The different resources areas include:*

Resources Areas	Explanation
Natural	Anything to do with natural resources and the environment. For example: access to clean water, land, good soil, plants, animals etc.
Economic	Anything to do with livelihoods. For example: an income-generating activity, businesses, access to cash.
Social	Anything to do with governance and social networks. For example: good relationship with local politicians
Spiritual	Anything to do with strength and encouragement people receive from their faith. For example: ability to provide peace; pray with people etc.
Physical	Anything to do with man-made things and infrastructure. For example: a church building, tools, access to a communication system.
Individual	Anything to do with a person's experience of life. For example: a person's health; their age, abilities, knowledge, experience.

(At the end of 10 minutes say) I hope this has been encouraging to you! Please keep these in your church record files for future reference. We will return to them later. Come back together and form one group again.

### **Characteristic 1 - Done to show God's Love - 15 minutes**

12. (Say) Let's consider the first characteristic of an Act of Love.

*Draw the cross shape up on the flipchart, under the heading as shown in this diagram.*

13. (Ask) What does the horizontal bar represent?  
What does the vertical bar represent??

*Allow some time for responses.*

*If necessary, remind them that the long, vertical bar represents our relationship with God. The shorter, horizontal bar represents our relationship with one another – our neighbor.*

5. (Summarize) We demonstrate our love to God by loving our neighbor; we cannot love God without loving our neighbor! One can't exist without the other.

6. (Say) The first characteristic of an Act of Love is that it is done "To Show God's Love".

*Write that up on the flipchart as shown.*

7. (Ask) What does it mean for our churches to "Show God's Love"? Why should churches do this as part of an Act of Love?

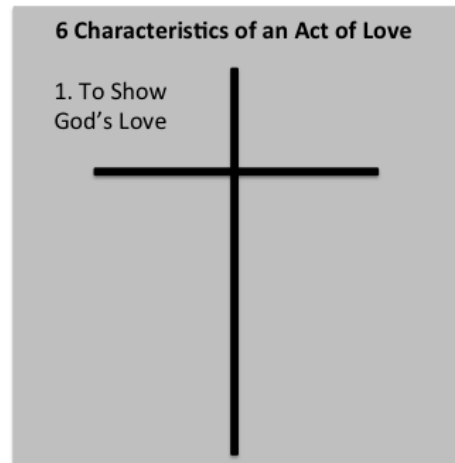
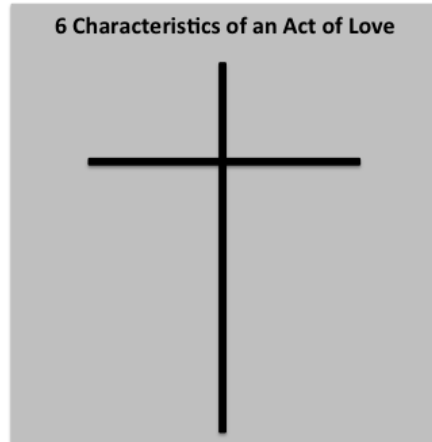
*Possible response: To show God's love to your community*

8. (Ask) Should Acts of Love be done for Christians or non-Christians?

*Allow some time for discussion.*

*Possible responses include: We need to do Acts of Love for non-Christians, because they really need to see God's love for them. Most people will never go to church, so it is only as we go out and demonstrate God's love that they will be able to understand God's love for them. However, we do want to make sure we also help those in the church. The Bible is very clear that we are to help and serve our fellow brother in Christ too.*

**Note: We recommend you start with something that shows love to a non-Christian or the whole community, but then feel free to move to Act of Love that also helps believers.**



**Characteristic 2 - Done in obedience to God - 15 minutes**

9. (Say) Listen to this true story of a church that decided to do an act of love. As you listen, ask yourself how they decided what to do as their Act of Love.
10. (Read this story slowly and clearly)

**An Act of Love**

*In a certain country, the church decided to do an Act of Love. They prayed and felt that God was telling them to help the wife of a powerful leader of a group of thieves in the area. They were fearful, as the thief had a reputation for becoming very angry and beating up people with little reason. However, the church wanted to obey God. They waited until the thief was out of town and they helped his wife to harvest the fields and prepare the crops for selling. When the thief came home, he saw all the crops harvested and started to shout, "Who did this?" The wife was afraid to tell him, fearful he would make trouble, but eventually confessed that the church had helped. The thief stormed off to the church and pounded on the door. The pastor answered (after calling the deacons to come over ), and the thief came in. "Why did you do that?" he demanded. They replied that they simply wanted to show God's love. The man started to cry, sharing that no one had ever loved him before in his life. He became a Christian, turned his life around, and went on to lead six more families from the group of thieves to Christ.*

11. (Ask) How did the church decide to whom to show God's love to?

*Response: through prayer, in obedience to God.*

12. (Ask) What was the impact or change in the community?

*Allow some time for reflection.*

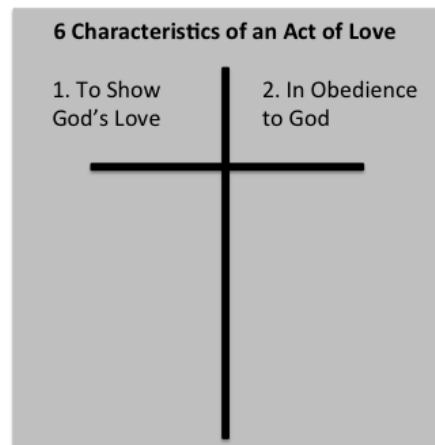
13. (Say) The second characteristic of an Act of Love is that it is done in obedience to God.

*Write that up on the flipchart as shown.*

14. (Summarize) We always want to make sure we are walking in obedience to God.

(Say) As the church, we need to start with prayer and ask God what He wants us to do.

Often the most powerful or transformative Acts of Love are not the things that make sense to us at first or are the most obvious. In our example, helping the



family of the thief may not have been the most obvious thing to do because it was scary, but it ultimately had a lot of impact.

**Characteristics 3 & 4 - Small Group study and Presentation – 20 Minutes.**

15. (Say) Now let's divide into two groups - make sure each group has at least one representative from each church if possible. I am going to give you some questions to discuss for ten minutes. Then we'll come back together and share what we have found.

*Pass out the discussion guides from Annex 13. One group will study "Done through God's Strength". One group will study "Done so that God is Glorified".*

**Characteristic 3: Through God's Strength**

Read John 15:1-8

- How much can we do by ourselves?
- How do we bear much fruit?
- In John 15:5, the Bible says: "If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit." What do you think it means to *remain* in God?
- How do we trust in God's strength during these projects?

**Characteristic 4: So that God is praised**

Read John 15:8

- What is the purpose of bearing much fruit?

Read Matthew 5:13-16

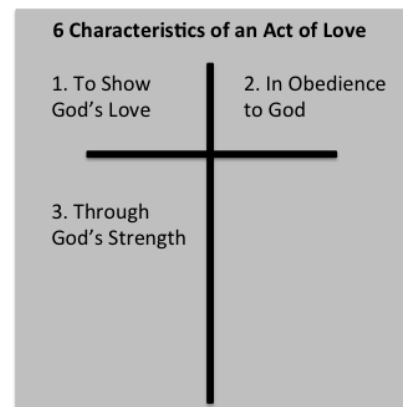
- Why do we do good deeds?
- What should our goal be when we do Acts of Love?

16. Visit each group and encourage their discussion. Use the questions or points below for the broader group discussion to help focus their discussion if need be.

*After 10 minutes, call the two groups back together.*

17. (Say) Let's hear from the group that studied Characteristic 3. What is the third characteristic? Would someone mind writing it up on our diagram for us?

*Show them where you want them to write it.*



18. *(Ask the group that studied Characteristic 3)* What did you learn from your scriptures in John 15? How do we bear fruit?  
*Possible responses include: As we seek God in prayer, listen and remain in Him, we can trust that in His time our Act of Love will bear good fruit.*

*(Say)* Helping people can be really hard. Only God can really bring the change we hope to see in our communities. If we want to see our communities changed through these Acts of Love, we need to look to God and ask Him for help.

19. *(Ask)* According to the Scripture you read, how can we trust in God's strength during these projects?

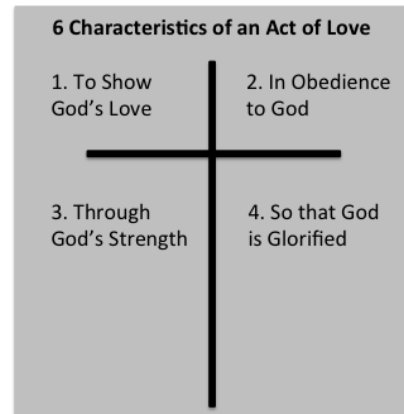
*Possible responses include: By faithfully seeking God in prayer and listening quietly for His wisdom. Asking the Lord to give us the strength to carry out the Act of Love project. Always praying - before, during and after an Act of Love.*

20. *(Say)* Thank you for sharing what you learned! How about Characteristic 4 now? What is it? Would someone mind writing it up for us?

*Show them where to write Characteristic 4.*

21. *(Ask the group that studied Characteristic 4)* Why do we want to bear much fruit and do good deeds? What is our goal when we do Acts of Love?

*Possible responses include: We do these things so that God will be glorified.*



22. *(Say)* The reality is that we may not have the opportunity to speak about God every time we do an Act of Love, but it should be our desire to make sure that we are glorifying God at all times and doing things in such a way that honors God.

23. *(Ask everyone)* What is one way we can know if we are doing things in God's strength and in a way that brings God glory?

*Allow a few ideas to be shared.*

*Possible responses include:*

*During the Act of Love we can pray and ask God to confirm that we are working according to His calling. We can look to see if the people who are serving are joyful and energized as they serve and if they are recognizing the inner value that*

*those who are served have; and if the people who are being served are recognizing or talking about the Lord and not the people serving?  
After doing the Act of Love we can look back to see how the project was done and what happened as a result of the project.*

24. (Say) After we do each Act of Love, we should take time to evaluate the results of it. We can think about these three areas:
- a. Was the individual, family, neighborhood or community helped? Did the people themselves see a positive benefit?
  - b. Was the project done in a loving way?
  - c. Was God glorified?

25. (Say) We will look more at this in the next session. For now, we have looked at the first four characteristics of an Act of Love. These are our key messages for this week.

*Refer to the diagram as you summarize.*

### **Key Message Session 7**

Acts of Love are done:

1. To show God's love
2. In obedience and gratitude to God
3. Through God's strength
4. So that God is glorified

### **Take-home Task - 10 minutes**

8. (Say) The take home task for this week is to, in your church groups, brainstorm as many things as possible that could be done by your church, to love and serve individuals, families, neighborhoods or your whole community. There is one rule: that these ideas must be things you can do without spending any money at all.  
This might seem difficult at first, but look back at your list of strengths, gifts and resources that your church has, and look for ideas there.  
You can also continue working on that list if you didn't feel you had enough time today.
9. (Ask) Are there any questions?  
*Allow time to discuss any questions and clarify the task.*
10. (Ask) Is each group willing to commit to this?  
*Look for a verbal response from at least one member of each group.*

11. (Say) I hope your group is also able to continue to pray for and serve the family that you identified in the last sessions take-home task.

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

*Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.*

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message*
- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*
- *Share the content of the next session*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another*
- *Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer*

### **Source Ideas**

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## Session 8 - Acts of Love Part 2

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack
- Bible
- Large flipchart from previous session on six characteristics of an Act of Love
- 1 copy per participant of Annex 14 - The six characteristics of an Act of Love
- 1 copy per participant of Annex 15 – Acts of Love review questions

### Objectives

1. Reflected on generating ideas for Acts of Love
2. Shared several ideas for an Act of Love
3. Participated in a group energizer - Making the longest line
4. Brainstormed reasons to keep Acts of Love small and simple
5. Brainstormed reasons to do Acts of Love with local resources
6. Examined scriptural reasons for giving
7. Received a summary of the Six Characteristics of an Act of Love
8. Committed to evaluating their initial ideas for Acts of Love

### Key Message

Acts of Love are done:

1. To show God's love
2. In Obedience to God
3. Through God's Strength
4. So that God is Glorified
5. Small and Simple
6. Using Local Resources

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1- 60 minutes

Take-Home Task - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes



## Session Opening - 15 minutes

### Introduction

*Plan time to:*

- *Welcome everyone*
- *Take a record of attendance*
- *Open the session with Prayer*
- *Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship*

### Review of take-home task(s)

1. *(Say)* Let's hear from everyone how you went brainstorming as many things as possible that your church could do to love and serve individuals, families, neighborhoods and the whole community.
2. *(Ask)* First – was it easy or difficult for your group to do this task?  
*(Probe deeper with)* Which category was easiest to brainstorm ideas on how to serve without spending any money – individuals? Families? Neighborhoods? The community? *(Say)* There is no right or wrong answer here – it all depends on what strengths and resources the Lord has given you church.  
*(Ask)* Why do you think this was the case?

*Try and encourage each church group to briefly reflect on these questions.*

3. *(Ask)* Did you enjoy this process? Was it fun or energizing? Has it made you think of your church or community any differently to before? In what way?  
*Allow a short time for response.*
4. *(Ask)* Now, let's hear from one group an idea they had for doing an Act of Love that would most directly bless individuals?

*Allow time for one group to share. Help clarify the question if necessary. They may need to look through their list of ideas to see which ideas most apply to individuals (eg. Teaching reading and writing)*

*Continue, taking turns with each church group, asking for one idea for an Act of Love that would most directly bless families, then neighborhoods, then the whole community.*

*If a group did not have any ideas for a certain sphere (individuals, families, neighborhoods, the community) encourage them that it does take practice and over time they can expect to have ideas on how to serve in different ways. Also, many Acts of Love impact multiple spheres – they are not cut and dried things.*

### Session Objective(s)

5. (Say) Today we are going to finish looking at the characteristics of Acts of Love and begin the planning process. You will finish the planning in your own time.

### Activity 1- 60 minutes

#### Introduction - 15 minutes

6. (Say) First, let's start with a fun exercise. I need you to form two equal lines as quickly as possible.
7. (Once lines are formed, say) Now, your challenge today is to make the longest line possible, while standing in your lines. You can use anything you have on you to make the longest line - shoe laces, belts, hats - anything. Each person must be in contact with another person either by a part of the body like a hand or a piece of clothing. The team with the longest line wins. You have five minutes – Let's go!

*Allow time for fun and to let the each group try and out-do the other. When the game is over, congratulate the winning team.*

8. (Ask) When I first asked you to do this, how long did you think your line would get? Are you surprised with the end result?  
*Allow time for responses.*
9. (Ask) What does this exercise teach us about using our own resources and working together to solve a problem or need?

*Possible responses include (and mention these if they do not come up): It can surprise us when we see what we can achieve by only using what we have. Once people have a clear idea of what is needed they can become motivated and energized - this is what an Act of Love can be for your church. Challenging situations can produce creativity. Sometimes giving up our resources for the common good can be challenging and make us feel uncomfortable too.*

#### Characteristic 5 - 15 minutes

10. (Say) Let's look back at our characteristics of an Act of Love.

*Put up the diagram from the last session*

(Say) An Act of Love is done:  
To Show God's Love  
In Obedience to God

In God's Strength  
So that God is Glorified.

11. (Say) Now, the fifth characteristic of an Act of Love is that it should be "Small and Simple". Ideally, they should be able to be completed in a day.

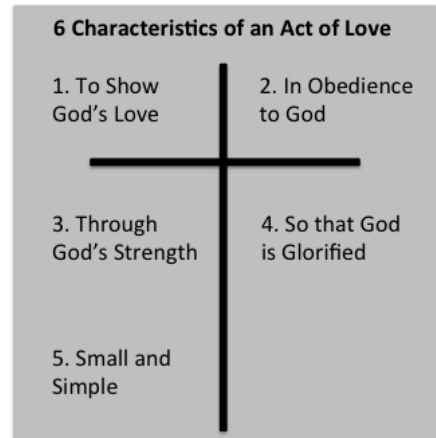
Write this up on the diagram as shown.

12. (Ask) Why do you think it is important to start with small and simple Acts of Love?

Encourage their responses. Ask someone to write the ideas up on a separate flipchart. Draw out these ideas and explain them as necessary.

Possible responses include:

- So we are able to complete it. (If we do something large then it is easy to get overwhelmed. However, if we do something small and simple then we are more likely to actually do it and get finished.)
- So more people can get involved. (It is easier for people to sign up for a small project and commit to it if they know it's just one day or an afternoon. They will say "Oh, I can do that. I am free that afternoon." But if it is a big project that takes many days to finish, then people are more hesitant to commit their time and resources, especially since the idea of doing something for others is still new to them.)
- So we have opportunity to build our skills. (Maybe we haven't had much experience in doing projects. This gives us the opportunity to do something together, and get experience before we try to do something much more complicated.)
- So we can be quickly successful. (As we are successful in small projects, we get others to join who are attracted by the success. Maybe when you first start only a few in the church will be interested in participating, but as you teach more and model successful projects, more people will be interested in joining.)
- So they can be frequent. (It is better to do small Acts of Love frequently (once every week or two weeks) than to do a big project as a one off thing. Doing frequent projects imprints in the minds of community members that the church cares.)



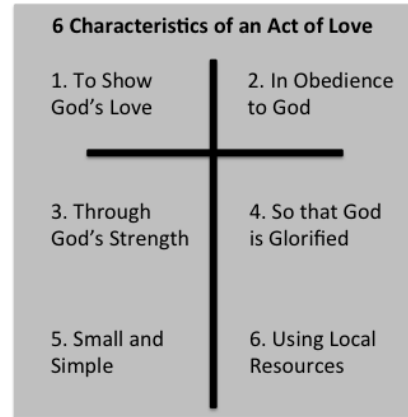
### Characteristic 6 - 30 minutes

13. (Say) The 6<sup>th</sup> and final characteristic of an Act of Love is that it be done using local resources.

Write that up on the diagram as shown.

14. (Ask) Why do you think one of the characteristics of an Act of Love is that it is completed using local resources that God has already provided you, and not outside resources? Why is this important?

(Say) Think about what we learned doing the “Making the longest line” exercise earlier.



Allow some time for responses.

Responses can include:

a) Using our own resources is a tangible demonstration of love.

*For someone in need, seeing people that you know from your own community give sacrificially demonstrates God's love in a personal and tangible way*

b) Using our own resources can make the Act of Love more quickly achievable  
*Often accessing outside resources can take time. For initial or small projects, it is sometimes more feasible to work with our own resources.*

c) The giver is blessed when giving i.e. We are blessed, individually and as a church, when we give.

*We are blessed when we give. See the next question to expand on this*

15. (Say) Let's look up 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. Can someone read it please?

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.<sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.<sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.<sup>9</sup> As it is written:*  
*“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”*  
*<sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.<sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*  
*2 Corinthians 9:6-11*

16. (Ask) What blessing does God promise in this scripture?

*Response: God will bless those who give, in the same measure as we give.*

17. (Ask) Looking at this scripture, why does God bless us?

*Response:* So we can be generous on every occasion. So that God will be praised.

18. (Say) In other communities that FH has worked with, we have seen churches blessed by God as they have given generously. They have started to move out of poverty. But even more importantly, as they have more they are able to be even more generous and do even more projects. It's an exciting cycle that has led many communities to move out of poverty.

19. (Ask) What questions do you have? Are you excited to see how God can use your local resources? How confident are you that you will be able to do an Act of Love?

*Allow a time for sharing.*

Remind them of what they experienced during the 'Making the Longest Line' exercise.

If they respond with the concern that they have no resources, remind them of their brainstorm looking at their churches strengths and potential and resources from last week. Use the ideas below to encourage and challenge them further if necessary

- a. Everyone has resources. We need to open our eyes to what God has given us.
  - i. What are some of the skills in your community? (farmers, teachers, doctors, engineers, construction workers, tailors etc.)
  - ii. What are some of the skills that we as humans have? (Our bodies, minds, creativity, time) We need to exercise creativity to see what God has given us.
- b. 2 Peter 1:3-5 talks about the fact that God has granted us all things that pertain to life and godliness. We need to open our eyes to see and use what we are given for His glory.

20. (Say) I am going to give each of you a copy now of the characteristics of an Act of Love that we have identified here. You'll see it has both the diagram and an explanation of each characteristic for you.

*Hand out a copy of Annex 14 to everyone.*

21. (Say) The characteristics in the diagram here are our key message for this week. Will you read them out loud with me several times?

*Begin: Acts of Love are done.....*

*Read the characteristics through 2 times.*

22. *(Say)* This marks the end of module one! We will continue to work through practical planning aspects of these Acts of Love as we move into the new module, which is looking at the whole of the bible story and what that means for us practically.

### Take-Home Task - 10 minutes

23. *(Say)* The take-home task for this week is for each church group to look at your brainstorm of ideas, and ask these questions about each idea.

*Hand out 1 copy of the questions from Annex 15 to each group, and read through them together.*

1. How does this activity help us show God's love in the community? What could be added or changed to this activity to better show God's love?
2. Is this a small and simple project that can be done in a day's time?
3. Are the resources needed to complete this project readily available in our community?
4. How could this activity change our community? Is this the type of change we want to see in our community? If not, how could this activity be altered to better impact our community?
5. Do we think God will be glorified by completing this activity?

24. *(Say)* After you have considered all your ideas, I want you to choose the best two ideas to bring back to the next session with you. Pray and ask God for his guidance in this choice. Remember an Act of Love is done in obedience to God. Please feel free to involve as many other members of your church in this process as you like. The more people involved the better. Other people may also have other ideas to add to the list.

25. *(Ask)* Are there any questions?  
*Allow time to address any questions and clarify the task.*

26. *(Say)* Is each group willing to commit to doing this?  
*Look for a verbal commitment from most members of each group.*

27. *(Say)* I look forward to hearing your ideas in the next session.

### Closing - 5 minutes

*Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.*

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message*
- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*
- *Share the content of the next session*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another*

- *Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer*

**Source Ideas**

Ho, A. 2012. *Truth Centered Transformation. Module One: Introduction to Wholistic Ministry. Teacher Guide.* Copyright © 2012. Published by Reconciled World ([www.reconciledworld.org](http://www.reconciledworld.org)) under terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 license.

Njoroge, F, Raistrick, T, Crooks, B, Mouradian, J (2009) *Umoja: Facilitator's Guide*, Tearfund, Teddington.

## II. Module 2: God’s story

### Overview Table

Session	Key Messages
Session 9: God’s story of reconciliation	<p>Through Christ and His Church, God is actively in the process of reconciling ALL THINGS to himself.</p> <p>God is a relational God. We are created in his image, and are therefore designed to be in loving relationships also.</p>
Session 10: Creation: The perfect beginning	<p>God created me to be in perfect relationship with Him, other people, Creation, and with myself.</p> <p><i>God’s Creation is good and beautiful.</i></p> <p>God has given each person the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to be obedient stewards or managers of all that God has given us.</p>
Session 11: The Fall: The cosmic calamity	<p><i>Humanity’s primary relationship with God is broken; therefore all our relationships are broken. This is the source of all that is wrong, bad or evil in the world.</i></p>
Session 12: Redemption: Our special role	<p>Jesus Christ is the only hope for reconciliation of all the broken relationships in our world.</p> <p>We are called to be representatives of Christ</p>
Session 13: Consummation: The final outcome	<p>All our relationships will be made new when Jesus returns.</p>



## Session 9 - God's story of reconciliation

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack
- Bible
- 1 copy of Annex 1
- 2 copies of Annex 16 - pre-cut sets of the jigsaw puzzle game - (preferably printed out on stiff paper or cardboard)
- Annex 17 – copies for every group or participants, depending on literacy

### Objectives

1. Shared their experiences of evaluating their Act of Love ideas
2. Discussed the dangers of not understanding or knowing a whole story
3. Participated in a jigsaw puzzle game about reconciliation
4. Identified the purpose and plan of God for reconciliation
5. Brainstormed examples of “All things” that Christ is reconciling
6. Analyzed their Act of Love ideas through the concept of reconciliation
7. Discussed the significance of God being a relational God, and man being made in his image.
8. Committed to selecting an Act of Love and beginning to plan toward it
9. Committed to examining Genesis 1&2, looking for the relationships God created for man in the beginning.

### Key Messages

Through Christ and His Church, God is actively in the process of reconciling ALL THINGS to himself.

God is a relational God - We are created in his image, and are therefore designed to be

in loving relationships also.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 -60 minutes

Take-home Task – 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Note to the Facilitator

Prior to this lesson, you need to speak to someone who is a well-respected member of the group and/or a good storyteller. Ask them if they would be willing to share a short story that is dramatic, and well known in the community. For example, a story that is used to teach children a moral lesson. Ask them to tell it to you to see if it is appropriate. You are looking for a short story with a point in it in which you can stop the person sharing half-way and the listener will want to know the rest of the story.

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

#### Objective

1. *(Show Annex 1, say)* We are now starting Module 2. We will discuss the entirety of God’s story. We will examine how the truth of God’s Grand Plan affects who we are and what our work is today.

In today’s session we will look first at the whole story of the Bible and how it speaks of God bringing reconciliation. We will also consider what it means to us that God is a relational God.

Module 1: Loved by God  
Loving God



Module 2: God’s Story



Module 3: God’s Church in  
Community



Module 4: God’s Church in  
Action



#### Review of take-home task(s)

1. *(Ask)* Can someone tell us what the Key Message was in the last session?  
(Help people remember the answer: Acts of Love are done:
  - a. To show God’s love

- b. In Obedience to God
- c. Through God's Strength
- d. So that God is Glorified
- e. Small and Simple
- f. Using Local Resources

2. Why should we do Acts of Love?

*Possible responses include: To show God's love, to be obedient to God, to glorify God.*

3. (Ask) How did you go evaluating your Acts of Love? Were you all able to find 2 ideas? How easy or difficult was the process? Why do you think that is the case?

*Allow some time for each group to share. As the groups are sharing, consider how realistic and glorifying to God the ideas seem.*

*Often groups are ambitious and choose big ideas or projects. We want the groups to focus on small, achievable tasks so that they experience success. If you feel like a group needs to think more about their ideas, ask:*

- i. Is this a small and simple project that can be done in a day's time?
- ii. Are the resources needed to complete this activity readily available in this community?

*Encourage them to re-think their ideas if necessary – say you will help them after the session.*

28. (To conclude, say) Thanks for coming up with these ideas! We will continue to develop them and act on them in the coming sessions. Don't forget to keep your big list of ideas in your church file.

## Activity 1 -60 minutes

### Introduction – 10 min

1. (Ask) How many of you enjoy listening to a good story being told?

*(Pause for response, then say) I have asked [the person you practiced with] to share a story that is well known in this community. Lets listen to him/her now.*

YOU WILL NEED TO PREPARE FOR THIS IN ADVANCE. ASK ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS AHEAD OF TIME TO PREPARE A STORY AHEAD OF TIME. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AN EXAMPLE READY TO SHARE YOURSELF IN CASE THE PERSON IS UNABLE TO ATTEND.

2. *(Say)* Now that we have enjoyed listening to the story being told, I am going to ask [the storyteller] to start sharing the story again. Pretend that you do not know the story and are listening for the first time. I will stop them at a certain point.

*Encourage the person to start sharing the story again. As they are sharing, stop the person about halfway through the story.*

3. *(Say)* Imagine you don't know the rest of the story that was just shared.

*Ask these questions to prompt discussion.*

*(Ask)* How does it make you feel to not hear the whole story? How might you think about the story afterward? Can you enjoy the story again or share it with anyone?

*Allow time for some responses.*

*Possible responses include:*

- You would not understand the whole point of the story
- You might feel frustrated that the story hasn't finished the way you wanted it to.
- You might try and finish the story off yourself with your own ideas
- You cannot re-tell the story to someone else

4. *(Summarize by asking)* Now, what is the Bible?

*Allow time for responses, but guide the group to say that it is a true story that is God's story.*

5. *(Say)* Yes, the Bible is God's story about what God is doing. It is a collection of many stories, that all fit together to reveal the big, powerful, true story of God and his plan for all of his creation. It is important that we know the whole story.
6. *(Ask)* Can anyone remember what our very first key message was? If no one remembers it, read out the key message below, leaving out the key words underlined here and seeing if the group can fill them in.

**Key Message Session 1**

The Bible is God's Word to us. It is the foundation upon which we are to build our lives.

7. *(Say)* God's Story – the Bible – is our source of truth. This is the whole story that, through the work of the Holy Spirit, brings transformation and change - to

individual people, families, communities and churches. We need to know the whole story.

### Puzzle Game - 10 minutes

DECIDE IF THIS WILL WORK WITH YOUR PARTICIPANTS. YOU MAY MAKE YOUR OWN PUZZLE AND IMAGE IF YOU THINK OF SOMETHING MORE RELEVANT OR APPROPRIATE.



8. (Say) We are going to play a very brief game. Please divide into two groups.  
(Split the group down the middle)

9. (Say) Here is a puzzle for each group to complete. Have fun as you race to see who can complete it first!  
*Hand out one jigsaw puzzle that you prepared from Annex 16 to each group.*

*Help each group to begin or complete the puzzle if necessary. Once the groups have completed their puzzle, congratulate the winning team and then invite them back together.*



### Scripture study - 15 minutes

10. (Say) We will talk more about the game in a minute. Right now we want to start by looking at the big picture of God's True Story - His plan, His purpose and His Mission. Lets open up our Bibles to Colossians 1:19-20. This passage is written by Paul, who is discussing the supremacy of Christ.

*Write the scripture reference up on a flipchart.*

11. (Ask) Can someone please read this:

*<sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,<sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.  
Colossians 1:29-20*

12. (Ask) What does this passage say to us about God's purposes and plan?

*Allow time for responses. Possible responses may include:*

- Through God all things are reconciled to Himself.
- God made a way for peace through God's blood which was shed on the cross
- God has provided a way to achieve reconciliation and peace through the blood of Christ

13. (Ask) What does the word 'reconciliation' mean?

*Allow 1 or 2 people to respond.*

*(Say) Reconciliation means to bring together something that is broken.*

14. (Ask) Let's think back to the puzzle. What were you doing during the puzzle game? What were you trying to solve?

*Possible responses include: Trying to bring separate pieces back together; restore something that was once whole etc.*

15. (Summarize, say) The puzzle game was small picture of reconciliation. To reconcile something means: "To settle, resolve, bring together or patch up". This idea means that something was unsettled, unresolved or broken. In the game, you brought together all the broken pieces of the image of the world into one whole again. God, through Christ, is reconciling ALL things - bringing together, resolving, and patching up ALL things in heaven and on earth.

*On a sheet of flipchart paper, write "ALL THINGS" and post it where everyone can see it.*

16. (Ask) What are some examples of the "all things" that Christ is reconciling in heaven and on earth?

*Allow 1-2 minutes for people to think on this.*

*While people are thinking, say: God created ALL THINGS. Everything is owned by Him and made for His purposes.*

17. (Ask) What are some things that God did not create?

*People may look at you funny, but that is the point.*

*Point out things around the group that you can see. (Ask) Did he create this rock? The book? This house? Me? You?*

*The Answer: Yes. The point is that God created all things – everything! And, he is interested in reconciling, bringing together ALL THINGS.*

### **Application - 10 minutes**

18. (Say) What is amazing is that Christ calls us to represent Him - to be people who help reconcile all things back to God. This means we are participating with God in reconciliation!

19. *(Say)* Turn to a partner next to you now, and take 5 minutes to each share one of the Acts of Love you selected during the take-home task. Consider what your Acts of Love are working towards 'reconciling'. I will ask two of you to share with the group when you're done.

*Visit any pair that is looking like they need clarification.*

20. (Write this key message up on a flipchart. After 5 minutes, say) One of our key messages for today is that:

**Key Message Session 9A**

Through Christ and through us, His Church, God is actively engaged in the process of reconciling ALL THINGS to Himself.

21. *(Ask)* Can you please read this out loud with me a few times?  
*Repeat slowly, out loud, 2-3 times.*
22. *(Ask)* I'd like to ask two of you to share how your Acts of Love ideas may help to reconcile ALL THINGS. What exactly may be reconciled?

*As they are sharing, look for and highlight examples of reconciliation being sought between not just people, but also people and God, people and nature, people and themselves.*

23. *(In conclusion, say)* Thank you for sharing. It is true that even today we can see God at work, reconciling all things to himself through the work of Christ. We are to try and see evidence of Him doing this work in our community, and join Him in doing that work.

**The Relational Storyteller - 15 minutes**

24. *(Say)* As we said earlier, God has a story and it is the Bible. Every story has an author; who is the Author of God's Story?

*Response: The Author of the Bible, of God's story, is God Himself. God wrote His story about Himself. God is the STORYTELLER and the Author.*

God is the Author of His story, and God is the Author of our story, the story of all humanity. Let's take a minute to think about whom God is. We often describe God in terms of the Trinity; that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit; three in one. This means that God, while One, is also three. God has a relationship with Himself through these three different Persons of the Trinity. This means that God is also RELATIONAL. It is helpful to think of God as a loving, self-giving community; three, yet one. This is very important for us, as we are made in His image!

25. (Ask) So if God is a relational God and we are made in His image, what does this mean for us? What should we do or be in response?

*Possible responses include: If we are created by God and are supposed to act like God, it means that we can also be in a relationship with God. It also means we are created to be in loving, self-giving community and relationships.*

26. (Say) Another key message for us today is:

**Key Message Session 9B**

God is a relational God. We are created in His image, and are designed to be in loving relationship with Him and with others.

*Write this message on flip chart paper.*

27. (Say) Lets repeat this out loud several times too.

*Repeat slowly, out loud, 2 or 3 times.*

28. (Say) Now let's open our Bibles. Can I have a volunteer read Matthew 22: 37-38?

*<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." [a] <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*  
*Matthew 22:37-38*

29. From these verses, what is the Greatest Commandment?

*Response: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*

30. (Ask) Does this command say we should follow laws or do certain actions?

*Response: No.*

(Ask) If this command is not about following laws, or doing specific actions, what is the command about?

*Possible responses include: The command is about relationships - about loving God and others - about having right and just relationships.*

31. (Say) It is important that we recognize that we are all made in the image of God - and therefore we are all created to be in relationships. God's Greatest



Commandments shows us that the best way to obey God is to love Him, to be in a loving relationship with Him and also with others. We will consider this a lot more in the rest of this module.

### Take-home Task – 10 minutes

32. *(Say)* The first take-home task for today is to select your first Act of Love from the two ideas you have today. Select the idea that you are all most unified around, based on prayer together. Then, I want you to start planning the Act of Love. For this take-home task I want you to decide what you need to do the project. I am going to give you a planning outline now that you can use. I only want you to complete the first column, if possible.

*Hand out Annex 17. Talk through each row and the first column. Explain that are happy to discuss this further when you visit, and will address the other columns in the next session*

*After discussion, ask each group if they are willing to commit to completing this task.*

33. *(Say)* The other take-home task is to read all of Genesis 1 & 2. This is very important to prepare for our next session. As you read or listen, try and identify the four key relationships that God gave man in his original plan for creation.

*Ask them to raise their hands, showing that they understand that they are to read (or have the scriptures read to them) Genesis 1 & 2 before the next session.*

### Closing - 5 minutes

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*
- *Share the content of the next session:*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion amongst the group and prayer for one another*
- *Finally - Close in prayer*

### Source Ideas

Ooms, L.J. (2012) Theology, Principles and Practice of Transformational Development: Lesson 2

FH Vision, Mission and Values Training for New Staff, Copyright © 2009, 2012 FH Wilson, M (2013) Lesson 02 The Whole Story, Phnom Penh Bible School

## Session 10 – Creation: The perfect beginning

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack
- Bible
- A large, hand drawn copy of Annex 18 - the Four Relationships Diagram
- *If conducted after the Community Leaders Training Manual:*
- Summary of the results of the Appreciative Inquiry process which reveals the community identified resources, strengths and potential.

### Objectives

1. Reflected on their experience of beginning to plan their first Act of Love
2. Identified the four relationships of man created by God in the beginning
3. Described each of the perfect relationships for man based on the biblical account in Genesis.
4. Applied the call to stewardship to the churches role in helping the community manage their resources.
5. Committed to completing their Act of Love Planning Outline
6. Committed to reading Genesis 3.

### Key Messages

**Key Message 10A:** God created me to be in perfect relationship with Him, other people, Creation, and with myself.

**Key Message 10B:** God's Creation is good and beautiful.

**Key Message 10C:** God has given each person the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to be obedient stewards or managers of all that God has given us.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 - 60 minutes

Take-home Tasks - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

## Session Opening - 15 minutes

### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Review of take-home task(s)

1. (Ask) Can someone tell us what the Key Messages were in the last session?

### Key Messages, Session 9

Key Message 9A: Through Christ and His Church, God is actively engaged in the process of reconciling ALL THINGS to Himself.

Key Message 9B: God is a relational God. We are created in His image, and are designed to be in loving relationship with Him and with others.

2. (Say) Now – lets hear from each group and individuals how you found using the planning outline for your Act of Love.

I have some questions I'd like you to think about and discuss. They are: what aspects were easy to plan and what were more difficult? Why do you think that is the case?

And, how did doing this planning make you feel? Was your group energized or frustrated doing this task? Did some people in your group like the task while others did not? Why do you think this is the case?

Lets take some time to reflect on this planning experience now.

*Encourage the whole group to discuss and share their experiences as individuals and within a group. Encourage them to be honest as they share – there is no right or wrong answer.*

3. (To conclude say) Planning can take time. It does get easier with practice however. That is one of the reasons we are doing this together and will practice throughout this training program.

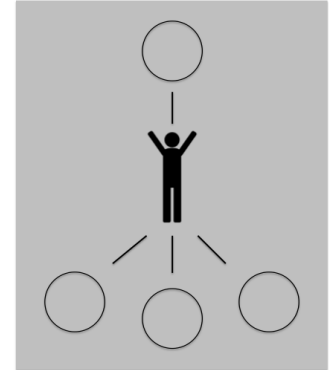
### Objective

1. (Say) This session is going to look at the first major chapter in God's story - Creation. We will examine the primary relationships God established for us at Creation, and what it means for us that God's creation was perfect and that we are called to be stewards of His creation.

## Activity 1 - 60 minutes

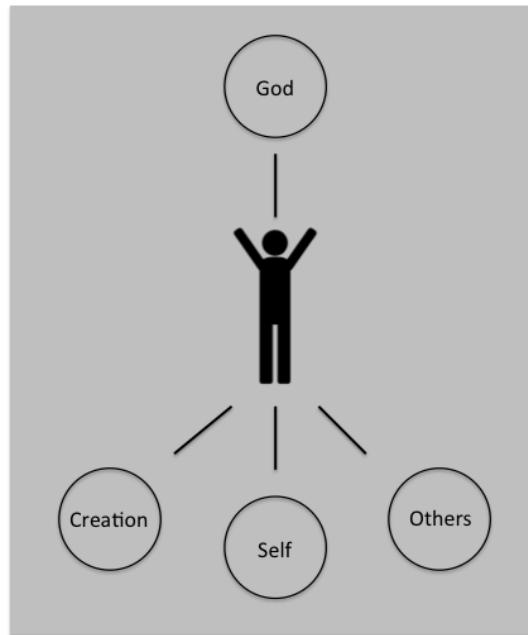
### The Four Relationships – 20 minutes

1. (Say) Now let's start at the beginning of God's Story. Your take home task was to read Genesis 1 & 2 and try and identify the four relationships God established at creation.
2. Put up the large diagram of Appendix 18 that you drew before the lesson.
3. (Ask) What were the four relationships that you found in Genesis 1&2? Let's discuss them and we can draw and add them up to this diagram here.
4. Allow time for responses. If the participants are not identifying a relationship, encourage them to look up the specific verses provided in the table, and use the prompt questions as necessary.



Relationship	Verses in Genesis	Prompt Question	Example at Creation
<b>People with God</b>	1:26-27	God made us to have a relationship with whom, first of all? Answer - with God himself.	Adam and Eve's individual relationships with God
<b>People with Others</b>	2:18, 21-25	God made man to have a relationship with whom? Answer - others	Adam and Eve with each other
<b>A Person with Self</b>	1:26-28	God made man to have a relationship with whom? Answer - self	Adam and Eve's understanding of their identity and purpose
<b>People with Creation</b>	1:28-30 2:8,15 2:19-20	God made man to have a relationship with what? Answer - Creation	Adam and Eve were to rule the plants and animals in the garden

5. *Fill in the responses in each of the circles as you go, so your diagram will look like this:*



6. *(When all four relationships have been identified, ask) Have you ever thought of yourself in this way before - as being created to be in relationship with God, Others, Yourself and Creation before?*

*Allow time for responses.*

7. *(Explain) Our relationship with God is primary - the most important. That's why it is a vertical line and at the top of the picture. But it is not the only relationship - these others are important too.*

8. *(Say) Here is one key message for today.*

*Write this up on a different flip chart.*

**Key Message Session 10A**

God created me to be in perfect relationship with Him, other people, Creation, and with myself.

9. *(Say) Lets repeat this together once or twice.  
Repeat slowly, out loud, 1 or 2 times.*

**Perfect Creation - 20 minutes**

10. (Say) Let's look at Genesis 1 and 2 again. What do Genesis 1 & 2 tell us about what the world was like when God first created it?

*Look for responses that it was beautiful, sinless, perfect, "good", "very good".*

11. (Ask) Can someone read Genesis 1:31?

<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.  
Genesis 1:31

(Say) Starting in Genesis, God created everything and it was what?

*As you say this sentence, encourage everyone to verbally complete the sentence with "good".*

12. (Say) Another Key Message for today is:

**Key Message Session 10B**

*God's Creation is good and beautiful.*

1. (Say) Lets repeat this together once or twice as well.  
*Repeat slowly, out loud, 1 or 2 times.*
2. (Say) This shows us that Gods plans and purposes for His Creation - including us - are Very Good. Let's look more closely at what the four relationships of humanity were like in God's original plan. Please divide into four groups. Make sure each group has different churches represented.
3. (Explain) Each group will take one of these four relationships. You will have five minutes to discuss what the relationship was like at the time of Creation, then we'll hear a summary from each group. Remember that the relationships are:
  - People with God
  - People with Others
  - A Person with themself
  - People with Creation

*Once they are in four groups, assign one relationship to each group. Quickly visit each group to check that they understand the discussion topic.*

4. After four minutes call everyone back together and ask each group to give a quick summary.

*As each group shares, make sure the ideas from the “What it was like” column in the table below are drawn out of each groups summary.*

Relationship	Genesis Verses:	What it was like:
<b>People with God</b>	1:26-27	Man was made in God’s image. God cared for, provided for and was walking with Adam in the garden. He even honored what Adam named animals, calling them by Adam’s name for them.
<b>People with Others</b>	2:18, 21-25	Eve was a gift from God given to Adam, she was bone of his bones, and they were joined together as one flesh, naked and not ashamed.
<b>A Person with Self</b>	1:26-28	Man had an identity of being a child of God, made in his image. He had a clear understanding of his significance and purpose.
<b>People with Creation</b>	1:28-30	God gives Adam authority and dominion over plants and animals
	2:8,15	God placed Adam in the garden with a role to care for and develop it.
	2:19-20	God brought every animal to Adam to name it.

**Stewardship – 10 minutes**

13. (Say) Now let’s listen to Psalm 8. As we read it, think about what the verses say about human beings and what distinguishes us from the rest of creation. Can someone read Psalm 8 for us?

*For the director of music. According to gittith. A psalm of David.*

*1 Lord, our Lord,*

*how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*You have set your glory*

*in the heavens.*

*2 Through the praise of children and infants*

*you have established a stronghold against your enemies,*

*to silence the foe and the avenger.*

*3 When I consider your heavens,*

*the work of your fingers,*

*the moon and the stars,*

*which you have set in place,*

*4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them,*

*human beings that you care for them?*

*5 You have made them a little lower than the angels*

*and crowned them with glory and honor.*

*6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands;*

*you put everything under their feet:*

*7 all flocks and herds,*

*and the animals of the wild,*

*8 the birds in the sky,*

*and the fish in the sea,*

*all that swim the paths of the seas.*

*9 Lord, our Lord,*

*how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*Psalm 8*

14. (Ask) In verse 5 what do the verses say about human beings?

*Response: Made a little lower than the angels; crowned with glory and honor.*

15. (Ask) In verses 5-6, what distinguishes human beings from the rest of creation?

*Response: Human beings are crowned with honor and dignity; we are made to rule Creation/the works of God's hands.*

16. (Say) These verses say that we are made to rule God's Creation, and everything is under our feet. Now let's look again at Genesis 1:28-30. Can someone read these verses again?

<sup>28</sup> *God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

*Genesis 1:28-30*



17. These two verses are saying the same thing; that we are expected to care for God's creation. In these verses it says to 'rule' but we understand that this means we are to be loving caregivers of God's Creation.

*Allow for some discussion.*

18. (Summarize) God created us to be stewards or managers of the gifts and resources God has given us. This is our key message for today.

*Write this key message up on flipchart paper.*

### **Key Message C Session 10**

God has given each person the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to be obedient stewards or managers of all that God has given us.

19. (Say) This key message is longer than the other two. Lets say this slowly, out loud, several times.

*Repeat slowly, out loud, 2-3 times.*

### **Application – 10 minutes**

20. (Ask) What does a steward or a manager DO? What is their job?

*Allow for some responses.*

*Possible responses include: A steward or manager is supposed to manage the resources that are owned by someone else (in this case, God). These resources do not belong to the manager, so he can't use them any way he wants to. He has to use them the way the owner says to use them. A manager should try to please the owner and where possible, find ways to increase the owner's resources. A manager will always be responsible to the owner for what the owner has asked him to do.*

(Say) In Session 7, when we started looking at Acts of Love, you identified what strengths, resources and potential your churches have. These are a good example of what we have to manage well. Other resources that we are called to manage well include those around us in the community. Lets spend some time now thinking about how we could contribute to the management of all the resources in this community.

*If this training conducted after the community leaders training:*

Share with them the results of the HCA and Appreciative inquiry process where the community resources are identified.

Discuss these questions with the church leaders:

What resources are identified by the community members and leaders that are not identified in your church resources?

How can we as individuals, and our church as a whole, help the community to manage these resources well?

*If this training is not conducted after the community leaders training:*

Discuss these questions with the church leaders:

What do you think some of the resources, strengths or potential of the whole community are?

How could we as individuals, and our church as a whole, help the community to manage these resources well?

*Ideas for discussion include: plan to build supportive relationships with community leaders; look to join any representative community groups; pray and ask God to reveal areas of resources and blessing from Him that you or anyone in your community may not have recognized before.*

21. *(To conclude, say)* We are all called to manage God's good creation well. We need to do that personally, as a family, as a church, and as a community. There are different ways we can get involved to help everyone manage what God has given us well.

### **Take-home Tasks - 10 minutes**

2. *(Say)* Today's take-home task is to continue with and complete your Act of Love planning outline. This is where you consider who will be responsible, and how long each task involved will take. We can prayerfully commit this discussion to the Lord and ask Him to help us steward the people involved, the time involved, and His resources well. You might want to include other church members in your plan. Let's take a look at the outline now and discuss any initial questions you may have.

*Allow some time for discussion and questions.*

*Explain that in the next session you will help them finalize their plan and ask for them to commit to doing their Act of Love for the next take-home-task.*

3. *(Say)* Finally, please also read Genesis 3 before our next session.
4. *(Ask)* Are you all willing to commit to doing these tasks?

*Look for verbal commitments.*

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*
- *Share the content of the next session:*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion amongst the group and prayer for one another*
- *Finally - Close in prayer*

### **Sources**

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Ooms, L.J. 2012, Theology, Principles and Practice of Transformational Development: Lesson 6

## Session 11 – The Fall, The cosmic calamity

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Flipchart papers and markers for group work
- Tape or tack
- Bible
- The diagram from Annex 18, drawn on from last session
- Annex 19: The effect of sin on relationships – Verses; cut out

### Objectives

1. Analyzed their completed Act of Love Planning Outline
2. Summarized the consequences of sin on each of mans four relationships.
3. Created pictures of a healthy marriage and family, and an unhealthy marriage and family
4. Described examples of the ‘wholistic’ effects of sin
5. Identified the future promise of redemption
6. Committed to doing their Act of Love

### Key Message

Humanity’s primary relationship with God is broken; therefore all our relationships are broken. This is the source of all that is wrong, bad or evil in the world.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 - 60 minutes

Take-home Task – 5 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

*Plan time to:*

- *Welcome everyone*
- *Take a record of attendance*
- *Open the session with Prayer*
- *Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship*

**Review of take-home task(s)**

*(Say)* Can someone tell us what the Key Messages were in the last session?

**Key Messages Session 10**

**Key Message 10A:** God created me to be in perfect relationship with Him, other people, Creation, and with myself.

**Key Message 10B:** God's Creation is good and beautiful.

**Key Message 10C:** God has given each person the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to be obedient stewards or managers of all that God has given us.

1. *(Ask)* Was every group able to complete their Act of Love Planning Outline? Look for an indication of 'yes' from each group. For any churches who haven't, the following questions will still be relevant.
2. *(Say)* Please quickly form into your groups. I'm going to ask you four follow-up questions to help you determine if you are fully planned for your first Act of Love.

*Ask each question and encourage them to discuss briefly for 1 minute amongst themselves. You are not asking them to tell you the answers. You are looking for all the members to be in agreement and knowing the plan well. If they are well planned they may have nothing to discuss amongst themselves. If they are unplanned, you can spend more time with them at the end of the session discussing any challenges.*

Question 1: Have you confirmed everything you need to do this Act of Love? And where will you get those things?

Question 2: Whom are you going to serve with this Act of Love? Have you asked them about it? (This may not be relevant in all cases)

Question 3: Whom have you organized to participate or help in doing this Act of Love? Are they all agreeable and understanding of the purpose of Acts of Love?

Question 4: What date are you going to do this Act of Love? Is everything and everyone going to be available on that date?

After the groups have considered and responded to each question, congratulate them!

*(Say)* Well done! You are now ready to do your first Act of Love!

### Objective

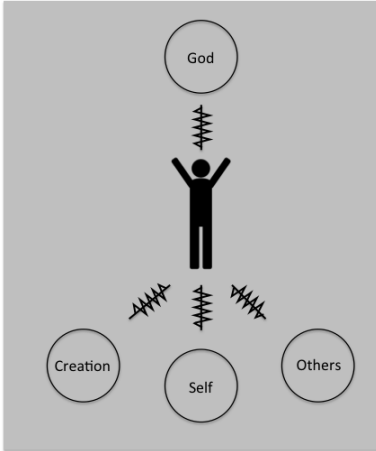
3. (Say) In this session we will look at the next major chapter of God's story - the Fall. The Fall is the part of God's Story when sin enters the world. We will examine how the entrance of sin affected and continues to affect the four primary relationships of humanity.

### Activity 1 - 60 minutes

Take out the filled in diagram of the Four Relationships: Appendix 18 from Session 10.

### Experience - 20 minutes

4. (Say) One of your take-home tasks was to read Genesis 3. In Genesis 3, Satan tempted Adam and Eve into sin. Their sin affected all that God had created and had called good. Every relationship humanity has was broken and ever since this event in history our relationships need to be reconciled. We could show it in



our diagram here by doing this:

*Put squiggly lines through all the connections between the person and each type of relationship, as shown in the diagram here.*

5. (Say) Let's divide into our four groups that represent the different types of relationships that are the same as last time. I will give you a large piece of paper that I'd like you to divide in two.

6. (Explain) The consequence of sin was that relationships were broken. Our relationship with God was broken; our relationship with Creation was

broken, etc.-. Think about the consequences on the broken relationship for your group. Divide the page in half, and on one side of the page, write down or draw the consequences that happened immediately to the relationship your group represents, as described in Genesis 3. You have 3 minutes to do this. I will hand out the specific verses you will want to look at for ideas.

7. Hand out the relevant verses you have prepared from Annex 19

8. (After 3 minutes, say) On the other side of the page, now take 3 minutes to write down or draw what the consequences of sin on that relationship are now, for us today. When you are done you will share what you find with the whole group. (Visit each group to check that they understand the task. Share some ideas from the table below if it helps them)

9. (After 3 minutes, call everyone back together and ask each group to feedback their ideas one at a time:
1. What the immediate consequences were as shown in Genesis 3
  2. What the consequences they see around them today are.
- Make sure the ideas from the table are brought out in the discussion)

Table: How sin affected each of the four relationships

Relationship	Verses in Genesis	Effect of the fall then	Effect of fall now
<b>People with God</b>	3:10-12	Adam was afraid of God and withdrew from the relationship; Adam blamed God for giving him the woman who caused him to sin.	We still hide from God. We deny the existence of God. We treat God as if He is not relevant to our daily choices. Curses are perceived as the cause of bad things, not sin.
	3:21-24	God provided clothing for Adam, but banished him from the garden.	
<b>People with Others</b>	3:11-12, 16	Adam began to blame Eve for causing him to sin	Husbands and wives do not have good relationships; selfishness, greed, corruption, deception; exploitation of the vulnerable - physical, sexual, social, economic. Churches don't have a good relationship with other churches. Instead of working as a team they work as rivals and sometimes even causing harm in their communities.
<b>People with Creation</b>	3:17-19	Working the ground would be difficult; there would be weeds in the ground.	Concept of stewardship destroyed by: self-centeredness, exploitation, and distortion of values. People worshipping creation not creator. Not caring for creation eg. poor farming methods leading to

			erosion, improper view of work - no longer seen as part of our dignity, but as a curse or necessity.
Man to Himself	3:10	Man was ashamed and his identity and purpose was distorted.	Shame, guilt, poor self-image, pride, Self-centeredness. Fear of malicious spirits. People still try to hide from others. People don't understand their God-given value (being made in his image). Loss of dignity

10. *(After all have shared, thank the groups and summarize, saying)* In the fall, evil entered the world. Not just moral evil, but physical evil as well. Before the fall, Adam and Eve knew who they were and knew God. There was enough food and there were no earthquakes, no floods, no droughts. As a result of the fall, we now have all these things. The fall damaged all four of the relationships.

**Reflection - 20 minutes**

11. *(Say)* The key message for today is:

**Key Message Session 11**

*Humanity's primary relationship with God is broken; therefore all our relationships are broken. This is the source of all that is wrong, bad or evil in the world.*

*Write the key message up where everyone can see it.*

12. *(Say)* Let's read it out loud together several times (Read out loud, slowly and clearly, 2 or 3 times. Then, ask if there are any initial questions - see if others in the group will respond to any questions.)

13. *(Ask)* Can you please now divide into two groups.

*After they have divided, hand out a blank sheet of flipchart paper and markers.*

*For the first group, ask them to talk about what a healthy marriage and family looks like. Ask them to draw their ideas and try and represent a health marriage and family on the paper.*

*For the second group, ask them to talk about what a broken marriage and family looks like. Ask them to draw their ideas and try and represent an unhealthy marriage and family on the paper.*



*Explain to the groups that they have 10 minutes to do this and will show the other group their work at the end.*

14. *(After 10 minutes, say)* Lets come back together and please explain your drawings to us.

*Encourage each group to spend 2 minutes each, explaining their diagrams.*

15. *(After they have shared, say)* These are great diagrams. You have created examples here of how all the different relationships humankind has are interconnected.
16. *(Explain, referring to the relationship diagram)* These four relationships that we have and the effects of sin are intertwined because God made us as WHOLE people – not many separate pieces put together. This means that if one relationship is broken it affects the others, too.

For example: Having a poor self-image can lead to hopelessness,  
(Point out the wavy line between man and self)  
which leads to creating dependency,  
(Point out the wavy line between man and creation)  
which can lead to injustice and oppression;  
(Point out the wavy line between man and others)  
and this can lead to thoughts that God does not really love us as He made us poor.  
(Point out the wavy line between man and God)

Or, in another example: Having an abusive father,  
(Point out the wavy line between man and others)  
can lead to a distorted picture of God,  
(Point out the wavy line between man and God)  
as well as a poor self-image and fear of establishing deep relationships with others.  
(Point out the wavy line between man and self)

17. *(Ask)* Does this make sense so far?  
(Allow a short time for questions)
18. *(Ask)* Would someone like to come up here and explain the diagram of an unhealthy marriage and family according to the different relationships in this diagram, just as I have done with these examples?  
*Encourage someone to try and do what you have just done with the examples.*  
*Encourage others in the group to join in and help.*

*If you have time, encourage some other people to do the same for the healthy marriage and family diagram.*

**Application – 15 minutes**

19. (Ask) Please break into your '4 relationship' groups again and think of a real life situation where you have seen the distortion of one relationship affecting other relationships. After 5 minutes we will hear a brief summary from you. A real life situation to consider might be the one in which you planning to respond with an Act of Love.

(After 5 minutes, invite the groups back and ask two of the groups to share the example they came up with, using the diagram to help)

20. (After the groups have shared, thanks them for sharing, then ask)  
Who can remember the key message?

*Allow time for a response. Prompt them with the key message again if needed.*

**Key Message Session 11**

*Humanity's primary relationship with God is broken; therefore all our relationships are broken. This is the source of all that is wrong, bad or evil in the world.*

21. (Ask) Which relationship do you think the church traditionally focuses on? How many sermons focus on being reconciled to God, and how many focus on the healing of these other 3 relationships? Why is that? How does this challenge you?

*Allow some time for discussion.*

**Looking ahead - 10 minutes**

22. (Ask) Before we end this lesson - Why is it important that the lines are "wavy" and not broken or cut?

Possible responses include: A completely broken relationship would mean God has indeed forsaken us but that is not true. Though we deserve death, He has made a way for us to have a relationship with Him. Because of His GRACE, He is seeking a relationship with us so intently, that He sent His Son Jesus to die for us.)

23. (Say) Lets read Genesis 3:8-9.

<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"  
Genesis 3:8-9

24. (Ask) After Adam and Eve sinned, they hid themselves; what did God do?

*Response: God's first response is to call them.*

25. (Say) Lets also see Genesis 3:15. This is where the Lord is talking to the serpent.  
Lets read:

*And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel."*  
Genesis 3:15

26. (Say) Here God shows His love for us by making a way for us to be redeemed, or to be saved. Even though we broke the relationship with Him through our sin, God still made a way. These verses are a promise that Jesus will have victory over the serpent and therefore, victory over sin. He accomplished this by His death and resurrection. We will look at more next week.

### Take-home Task – 5 minutes

27. (Say) The take-home task for this week is for you to do your Act of Love! I encourage you to pray for the people involved in your Act of Love and ask God for discernment to see which of the four areas of relationship need reconciliation or healing. Ask God to provide that.

28. (Ask) Are you willing to commit to doing your Act of Love before the next session?  
Encourage a verbal response from every member of every group. Discuss any initial concerns they have.

29. (Say) I look forward to hearing how your Act of Love goes at our next session.

### Closing - 5 minutes

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*

- *Share the content of the next session*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion amongst the group and prayer for one another*
- *Finally - Close in prayer*
  - *As appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer*

### **Sources**

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Ooms, L.J. 2012, Theology, Principles and Practice of Transformational Development: Lesson 2

## Session 12 - Redemption - Our special role

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack
- Bible
- The diagram from Annex 18, drawn on from last session
- Annex 20 – The Act of Love Overview

### Objectives

1. Reflected on their experience of doing their Act of Love
2. Confessed Jesus as the only hope for the reconciliation of all things
3. Discussed what it means to be an ambassador or representative for Christ
4. Generated ideas for how they can be representatives for Christ, or ministers of reconciliation in each of the four relationship areas
5. Reflected on their personal relationships and need for reconciliation in them.
6. Prayed for one another
7. Committed to seeking restoration for any personal broken relationships
8. Committed to planning another Act of Love.

### Key Message

Key Message A: Jesus Christ is the only hope for reconciliation of all the broken relationships in our world.

Key Message B: We are all called to be representatives of Christ.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 - 60 minutes

Take-home Task – 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

*Plan time to:*

- *Welcome everyone*
- *Take a record of attendance*
- *Open the session with Prayer*

- *Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship*

### Review of take-home task(s)

1. *(Say)* Can someone tell us what the Key Message was in the last session?

### **Key Message Session 11**

*Humanity's primary relationship with God is broken; therefore all our relationships are broken. This is the source of all that is wrong, bad or evil in the world.*

2. *(Ask)* How did doing your Acts of Love go? Lets take 10 minutes to hear from each group how doing your Act of Love went. Please briefly explain what you did, and then how you felt it went. For example, if the response to the Act of Love was what you intended or not, and if those involved in doing the Act of Love were joyful and blessed by the experience, or not.

*Ask each group to briefly share. Encourage their efforts!*

### Objective

3. *(Say)* In this session we will look at the most wonderful chapter of God's story - God's Rescue Plan. This is His plan for our Redemption! We will see how God has called us at this time to join in his story.

### Activity 1 - 60 minutes

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE DIAGRAM FROM THE LAST SESSION, WITH THE WAVY LINES DRAWN THROUGH EACH RELATIONSHIP, SHOWING AND READY TO BE USED.

### Experience - 10 minutes

4. *(Say)* In most religions, people are required to sacrifice in order to please the god or gods they serve. But in Christianity, God so loved us that He sent His son to die for us!
5. *(Say)* Can someone read Colossians 1:19-20?

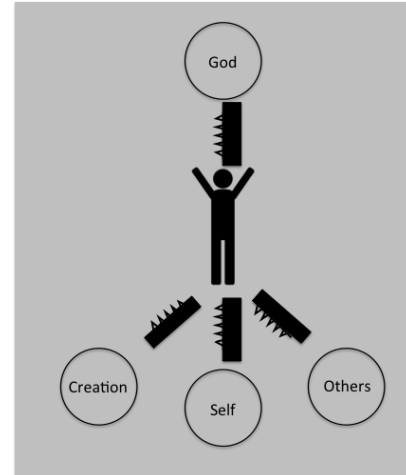
<sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,<sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

*Colossians 1:19-20*

6. *(Ask)* Why does Jesus die?

*Response: Jesus died for the reconciliation of all things, including relationships.*

7. *Take a marker and draw a heavy line over the wavy lines between each of the relationships, as shown in the diagram here.*
8. *(Explain)* The Cross of Christ is central in healing all of these relationships. The Gospel is an invitation to live in a healthy, vibrant relationship with a Living God, with others, creation, and ourselves, just as God created us to be.
9. *(Say)* Our first key message for today is:



### **Key Message Session 12A**

Jesus Christ is the only hope for reconciliation of all the broken relationships in our world.

*Write this key message up on a separate flip chart*

10. *(Ask)* Do you believe this?

*(Ask)* Please say this out loud with me.

*Repeat the whole key message as a group.*

### **Reflection - 15 minutes**

11. *(Say)* This is where we become important in God's story. In God's plan of redemption, He not only sent Jesus to reconcile all that was broken, He also instructed his followers to be people that help to facilitate reconciliation. God has given us a special role in His story, inviting us to participate in writing this portion of the story.
12. *(Say)* Lets read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

*Write the scripture reference under the key message. Ask someone to read.*

*<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.  
2 Corinthians 5:18-20*

9. *(Ask)* How does God carry out this work of reconciliation in the world?

*Responses: He has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are to be Christ's Ambassadors - sharing the message of reconciliation in Christ.*

10. (Ask) What is an Ambassador, what does an Ambassador DO?

*Possible responses include: An ambassador is one who is appointed for a special assignment to represent the intentions and plans of the country that they serve. They are seen as the spokesperson, the representative.)*

11. (Ask) What does the Bible say that we do to be ambassadors or representatives of Christ?

*Response: God has asked us to represent His purposes, plans and intentions. We are to represent God, and share his message of reconciliation.*

12. Write this key message under the other key message.

**Key Message Session 12B**

*We are called to be representatives of Christ.*

13. (Say) Lets say this out loud together now.  
*Repeat the message 2 times.*

**Application - 20 minutes**

14. (Say) Please divide into your four relationship groups again.  
Discuss how, in a practical way, you and your church could be representatives of Christ and how you can promote healing and reconciliation in this community, in the particular relationship area your group represents. You will have about 10 minutes.  
I will give you a flipchart to write or draw your ideas on. Think of as many ideas as possible!

15. *After 10 minutes call everyone back together. Ask each group, beginning with the "Relationship with God" group to show and share their ideas. Encourage their ideas and hard work!*

**Summary and Prayer – 15 minutes**

16. (After they have finished sharing, say) It is only as we know God's love and forgiveness in our own lives that we are able to be representatives for Christ as God created us to be.
17. (Pointing to the diagram with the relationships, say) As representatives, or ministers of reconciliation, our work is to:



- a. Make the lines in this diagram thicker; to straighten the squiggly lines, which represent the broken relationships. But we will not really see fully straight lines again until we reach heaven.
- b. Help people to see their value in Christ and pursue their God-given potential
- c. Bring everything back under the rule of Christ. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

This is what it means when we pray, “Thy Kingdom come”.

18. (Say) One of the challenges for us is that we cannot represent God and help bring healing and restoration to relationships if we do not have reconciled and healthy relationships ourselves. As the scripture in Matthew 5 says:

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.  
Matthew 5:23-24

19. (Say) Let’s spend some time in pairs now - reflecting on this challenge and praying for one another. Turn to the person next to you and share with one another about this call to be a representative of Christ. Share if you are challenged about any of your personal relationships that may be broken. Pray for one another – for faithfulness and obedience to the call, for strength and love from God to help respond to the call, and to go and seek healing and restoration with anyone if necessary.

*Allow 10 minutes for prayer, then call everyone back to finish up the lesson.*

### **Take-home Task – 10 minutes**

20. (Say) There are two take-home tasks today.  
The first is for you to go and try to restore any of your personal relationships that may be broken. This may be the most difficult thing to do, but it is very important.  
The second take-home task is for your church groups to plan a second Act of Love. Use the same process and questions you used to prepare the first Act of Love. I will hand out a summary for you to remind of the process that we followed last time.
21. (Ask) Are there any questions?  
*Hand out Annex 20. Allow time for questions and clarification*

22. (Say) Are you all willing as individuals to address any personal relationships that need healing or restoration?

*Look for a nod or verbal acknowledgement from people.*

And, is each group willing to plan another Act of Love by the next session – can you raise your hands if you are?

*Look for raised hands from each group.*

23. (Say) In our next session, we will begin with a testimony time for people to share either about their personal relationships or the effects of an Act of Love.

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*
- *Share the content of the next session*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion amongst the group and prayer for one another*
- *Finally - Close in prayer*
  - *As appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer*

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Ooms, L.J. 2012, Theology, Principles and Practice of Transformational Development: Lesson 2

## Session 13 - Consummation: The final outcome

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack
- Bible
- The diagram from Annex 18, drawn on from last session

### Objectives

1. Shared testimonies of personal reconciliation or the effects of an Act of Love
2. Celebrated the truth of consummation with worship.
3. Personally reflected and prayed about how God is actively reconciling their own relationships
4. Evaluated their church growth since the beginning of the training program
5. Prepared a song or drama about the whole biblical story and humankind's four relationships
6. Committed to presenting their song or drama to their church, and to preparing or completing their next Act of Love

### Key Message

God's redemptive work will be complete only with Jesus' glorious return.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 - 60 minutes

Take-home Task - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Review of take-home task(s)

1. (Say) Can someone tell us what the Key Messages were in the last session?

### Key Messages Session 13

Key Message A: Jesus Christ is the only hope for reconciliation of all the broken relationships in our world.

Key Message B: We are called to be representatives of Christ.

2. (Ask) *How did your take home tasks go? I am going to open up the group now to share testimonies of either personal reconciliation and restoration of a relationship, or, other testimonies you may have heard following your Acts of Love.*

*Who would like to go first?*

*Encourage several people to share. Make sure one person doesn't dominate.*

*If no one is willing to share a testimony, change the question to asking each group to share what they are planning for their next Act of Love and when they plan to do it.*

### Objective

3. (Say) This is the last session of this module. We are going to look at the final, future chapter of God's story - at how God's goal is to restore the whole of his creation to its original identity and purpose!

### Activity 1 - 60 minutes

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE DIAGRAM FROM THE LAST SESSION, WITH THE WAVY LINES HALF COLORED OVER, SHOWING AND READY TO BE USED.

### Experience - 20 minutes

4. (Say) Lets read Revelation 21:1-7.

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

<sup>6</sup> He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Revelation 21:1-7

5. (Ask) What did “He who was seated on the throne” say in verse 5?

*Response: God’s dwelling place is among his people. He is making everything new.*

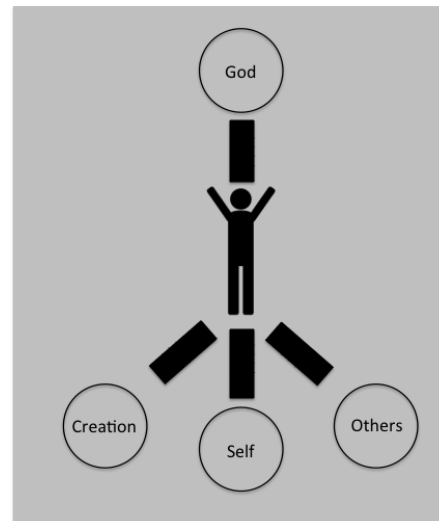
6. (Ask) What does ‘everything’ mean?

*Response: All things. This includes creation, nature, relationships, people.*

7. (Ask) So at the end of God’s story, what is man’s relationship with God going to be like?

*Response: it will be whole, restored, healed, perfect communion.*

*As the participants discuss, complete coloring over the wavy line connecting God to man on the diagram to make it fully connected once more.*



8. (Ask) According to these verses, what is our relationship with nature, others and himself going to be like? Will we have enough to eat? Ever be sick? Be hurt by others or ourselves?

*As they discuss, continue to fill over the rest of the relationship lines. Encourage them to reflect on the restoration of each type of relationship.*

9. *(Say)* This is the whole story; the wonderful story from beginning to end. The story of how God created a perfect world. Of how sin entered the world and destroyed everything. Of how God loved us so much that He sent His son to restore relationships that were broken in the fall. And of how God will one day come again and make all things new.
10. *(Say)* God loves you so much. He sent His son to die that you may have a relationship with Him, and that you might be able to have good relationships with each other, yourself, and with creation.
11. *(Say)* Our key message for today is:

### **Key Message Session 13**

*All our relationships will be made new when Jesus returns.*

*Write this key message up on flipchart paper.*

12. *(Say)* There is no mistake. God's plan will be accomplished. He will complete the reconciliation and restoration of all things!  
*(Ask)* Can you repeat this with me several times?  
*Repeat slowly, out loud, 2 or 3 times.*
13. *(Say)* Lets stand and sing a song of praise and worship now.

*Invite someone to choose a song that everyone would know and lead everyone in worship.*

### **Self-reflection - 10 minutes**

14. *(Say)* Let's take some time now to consider what God is already doing to bring reconciliation in your own life. This is a little different to last week – talking about all four of your relationships and not just your relationships with others. Take 3-4 minutes to personally reflect and pray on the whole of God's story for your own life. As you reflect, think about what relationships have been reconciled or are being reconciled in your life. Think about:
  - a. Your relationship with God
  - b. Your relationship with others. Who specifically?
  - c. Your relationship with creation. In what way?
  - d. Your understanding of your true identity, value and purpose?
15. *(After 3-4 minutes of quite reflection and prayer, say)* We have already heard some testimonies of reconciliation with others earlier in the lesson. Would anyone like to share what God has been revealing to him or her personally about

your relationship with Him, or creation, or yourself? We can take 3 or 4 minutes to hear anyone who would like to share.

*Allow about 5 minutes for 2 or 3 people to share a testimony.*

IF NO ONE HAS ANYTHING TO SHARE, BE PREPARED TO SHARE SOMETHING YOURSELF.

16. *(At the end, say)* I hope we are all encouraged to hear these testimonies, thank you for sharing.

#### **Small Group Evaluation - 15 minutes**

17. *(Say)* Please now divide into your church groups. I have 2 questions for you to discuss.

*Wait until their groups are formed, then say:*

*(Say)* We have been meeting for some time already. I would like you to think back about our time together:

- a. First - What would your church or leadership group be like if we had never started meeting, learning together and doing Acts of Love, and
- b. Second - What are the main things you have learned from these training sessions so far?

I will give you seven minutes to discuss this. Then, if you are willing, I'll open it up to you to share with the rest of the group.

18. *After seven minutes, invite the groups to share first of all what their church or leadership group would be like if they had never come to the training sessions; and then share what they think the main thing they have learned so far from these training session.*

*Be encouraged as you listen and if appropriate, ask someone to write responses up on a flipchart.*

#### **Application - 15 minutes**

19. *(Say)* To conclude this module, I would like each church group to create a song or drama about God's Whole Story and the four relationships of humankind. One of your take-home tasks will be to show this or introduce this to your whole church. You have 15 minutes to start creating it now.

*Visit each group as they work – encourage them to be creative and have fun. If they really do not like songs or dramas, they may also prepare a large drawing for their church or a poem. Something that is powerful and memorable in their church culture.*

*They may not complete the preparation in this lesson time. That is OK. They can complete it after the session.*

### **Take-home Task - 10 minutes**

20. *(Say)* This week's first take-home task is to share what you have prepared with your whole church! Decide how you want to present this so that your church members too may learn about the whole of God's Story and humankind's Four Relationships.
  
21. The second take-home task is to either finish preparing or do your second Act of Love!
  
22. *(Ask)* Are there any questions?  
*Allow time to respond to any questions. Offer to meet groups after the session to help complete their next Act of Love planning if necessary.*

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

*Plan time at the end to:*

- *Discuss the next meeting time and place*
- *Share the content of the next session*
- *Invite further questions*
- *Open the session to general discussion amongst the group and prayer for one another*
- *Finally - Close in prayer*
  - *As appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer*

### **Sources**

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### III. Module 3: The Church and the Kingdom of God

#### Overview Table

Session	Key Messages - Fact Statements
Session 14: The Kingdom of God	God's vision is to see His Kingdom come on this earth. This will bring transformation to our lives, and our families, churches and community.
Session 15: Building the Kingdom of God	God's plan is to use us to build His Kingdom. We need to be transformed first.
Session 16: The Church in the Kingdom of God - Part 1	The church is the living body of Christ, a community of living springs.
Session 17: The Church in the Kingdom of God - Part 2	The church's role is to equip individuals, transform families, and transform communities
Session 18: Kingdom Math	God builds his Kingdom by multiplying the gifts and talents we give him.

## Session 14 - The Kingdom of God

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack
- Bible
- Table 14.1 written up large on flipchart paper before lesson
- Annex 21 – 1 or 2 copies of parable studies, cut out
- Annex 22 - 1 copy of stories, cut out
- Annex 23 - “Our Community with Jesus as Leader” - sufficient copies for every church group

### Objectives

1. Demonstrated their song or drama prepared to show the whole of God’s story and the Four Relationships of Humankind
2. Examined the importance New Testament scriptures place on the Kingdom of God
3. Discussed with a partner what the Kingdom of God means to them
4. Summarized what two parables about the Kingdom of God mean to them
5. Listened to stories of communities transforming through people being obedient to Jesus
6. Imagined the expansion of the Kingdom of God in their own community
7. Prepared to dream and draw a picture for what the Kingdom of God would look like in their community with their church members

### Key Message

God’s vision is to see His Kingdom come on this earth. This will bring transformation to our lives, and our families, churches and community.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 - 40 minutes

Take-home Task - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

## Session Opening - 15 minutes

### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Overview

1. (Say) Today we begin the next module in our training. In Module 1 we looked at what it means for us that everyone is created by God, made in his image, and loved by Him. In Module 2 we looked at the whole of God’s story and how God invites us to join Him in bringing about reconciliation and restoration of all of mans’ relationships. In this module we are going to look more closely at the Kingdom of God and the Church’s role in the Kingdom.

### Review / Testimony Time

2. (Say) Before we begin, let’s take a few minutes to hear from each group what song or drama you prepared for your church to teach them about the whole of God’s story and the four relationships of humankind. We have about 10 minutes to do this.

*Encourage each group to perform their song or drama if there is time. If there is a drama that will take a long time, ask them to just perform the first few minutes of it and then explain the rest.*

### Session Objective

3. (Say) Today we are going to begin by looking more closely at the Kingdom of God. What it means and how important it is.

## Activity 1 - 40 minutes

*Make sure you have written up the scriptures and questions in Table 14.1 before the lesson begins.*

Table 14.1

Scripture	Question
Matt 10:5-8	What did Jesus send the disciples to teach about?
Luke 4:43	Why was Jesus sent?
Acts 1:3	What did Jesus teach about during his last forty days on earth?
Acts 28:30-31	What did Paul teach about?

### Importance of the Kingdom of God - Small Group Exercise - 20 minutes

4. *(Say)* The Kingdom of God was so important to Jesus; he mentioned it over sixty times. In comparison, he mentions the word “church” only twice. Jesus was very passionate about the Kingdom of God. Let’s look at some examples in small groups.
5. *Show them the flipchart where you have written the scriptures and questions below. (Say)* Please divide into two groups and look up each of these scriptures and answer these questions together. You will have five minutes.

*Visit each group and help their discussion where necessary.*

8. *(After 5 minutes call the groups back together and say)* God’s plan is to build the amazing Kingdom of God by seeing His will done on earth as it is in heaven. As we can see in these verses, this is a key idea both Jesus and Paul taught, and it should be important to us as well.
9. *(Say)* Our key message for today is:

### Key Message Session 14

*God’s vision is to see His Kingdom come on this earth. This will bring transformation to our lives, and our families, churches and community.*

*(Say)* We will return to this key message again, but think about it as we go. I will read it again *(Read the key message again)*.

### Parables Study – 15 minutes

10. *(Say)* Lets return to our groups again and this time look at some parables that I will give you to study. I want you to discuss what they tell you about the Kingdom of God, and what that might mean for your church and community. I will ask you to share what you find with the other group as we did last time.

*Hand out the ‘Parable Study’ discussion guides to each group. Visit each group to check how they understand the exercise.*

#### Parable Study

Please read these parables about the Kingdom of God:

1. The Parable of the Mustard Seed - Matthew 13:31-32
2. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure - Matthew 13:44

Please read and discuss what these parables say to you about the Kingdom of God and what that might mean for your church and community.

**Parable Study**

Please read these parables about the Kingdom of God:

1. The Parable of the Yeast - Matthew 13:33
2. The Parable of the Pearl - Matthew 13:45-46

Please read and discuss what these parables say to you about the Kingdom of God and what that might mean for your church and community.

11. *After about 10 minutes ask the groups to share with one another what they learned about the Kingdom of God from these parables. Thank them for their work.*

**Our community and the Kingdom of God - Stories - 15 minutes**

12. (Ask) Can you imagine a place where everyone recognizes Jesus as King and follows His command? That is what we are told to pray for in Matthew 6:9-10. Jesus said:

<sup>9</sup> *“This, then, is how you should pray:*

*“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,*

<sup>10</sup> ***your kingdom come,***

***your will be done,***

***on earth as it is in heaven.***

*Matthew 6:9-10*

13. (Ask) What does Jesus ask us to pray for?  
(Answer: For His Kingdom to come)
14. (Ask) How do we see His Kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven?  
(Allow some time for discussion.)
15. (Say) God wants to build His Kingdom here on earth (“Your Kingdom come”) through obedient servants who carry out His will (“Your will be done”). If we want God’s will completed, we need to see more people saved, more people obeying Him, and more people living as He intended in ALL areas of their life - including ourselves. This will bring transformation. Remember our key message:

**Key Message Session 14**

*God's vision is to see His Kingdom come on this earth. This will bring transformation to our lives, and our families, churches and community.*

I will write this up (Write up the key message on a fresh flipchart paper).

(Say) Please say this key message out loud with me.

16. (Say) God wants to see our whole community increasingly living as He intended. He desires that His will be done not only in our individual lives, but also in our communities. Listen carefully to these stories of other communities who are experiencing the Kingdom of God increasing in their midst.

(Hand out the story slips you have prepared to two people who can read well and ask them to read one at a time.)

**Story 1:**

A man in India went to visit a village where he had been working. He asked the village women what their community would look like if Jesus was the leader of the village. Umrai, one of the more outspoken women, described a village where there was unity and solidarity. She knew Jesus was not honored by how her village was divided. Each family lived for itself. Because of her reply, the group formed a health committee and a self-help group. The fourteen women in the self-help group began to meet regularly with great enthusiasm. Group members collected small amounts of individual savings into a group account and began to solve community problems together. Umrai became the president of the committee and used her leadership gifts to plan and mobilize the village to help the community the way Jesus would if He were the leader.

### Story 2

Ladies from a Bible study in Uganda decided to serve their village as Jesus would serve. They carefully planned their first project or Act of Love - cleaning garbage around a local bar. Two of the women courageously entered the bar. (Usually, only women who were prostitutes entered a bar.) They asked permission to clean up the garbage. The surprised owners laughed, but agreed. The women mobilized the community and many people began volunteering. The group dug two pits—one for biodegradable garbage and the other for non-biodegradable materials. When bar patrons saw others cleaning up their trash, they helped. To the delight of the community, the bar owners continued to keep the area clean.

Encouraged, the women decided to build nine fuel-efficient stoves for local families and to provide water storage pots for the needy. Next, the Bible study group undertook a larger project—a community market. The village women typically walk many hours, carrying their vegetables and goods to far away markets. A nearby market would allow them to generate income while keeping them close to their families, community, and gardens. Land was donated, but it was too steep to build the market. The women from the Bible study prayed and the highway workers who were repairing a road nearby willingly came and bulldozed the market property at no cost. With God's help, the small group of rural Christian women discovered and collected resources, saved money, solved dilemmas, and built a community market. Their spiritual lives grew as they served others on behalf of Jesus.

17. (Thank the volunteers for reading, then ask and facilitate a discussion with each of these questions in order)

(Observation questions)

- a. What happened in each of the stories?
- b. Because of the people in the stories, did the communities move closer to how it would be if everyone lived as Jesus intended? Did the Kingdom of God come in these communities? Why or why not?
- c. What were some of the activities the groups in the stories completed?

### Application - 10 minutes

18. (Ask and facilitate a discussion with each of these questions)

Think about your community now:

- a. Have you seen examples of the Kingdom of God coming in your community already?
- b. How does hearing these stories make you think about your community?
- c. Do you think it is possible to do something similar in your community?
- d. Do you feel challenged or excited? Why?

### Take-home Task - 10 minutes

19. (Repeat the key message)

### **Key Message Session 14**

*God's vision is to see His Kingdom come on this earth. This will bring transformation to our lives, and our families, churches and community.*

20. (Say) We want to see his Kingdom come in this community. One day God will bring his Kingdom literally and fulfill His promise of liberty, justice and peace forever. For now, we are playing our part in establishing that part of the Kingdom that can come here now. For our take-home task this week, I want you to imagine that Jesus is the leader of your community - that everyone loves and obeys Him - and then draw a picture of what you imagine your community would be like. In other words, a vision of what the Kingdom of God would look like in this community.
  
21. (Say) Please involve your whole church and be praying as you do this. Pray that His Kingdom would come, and ask for revelation on how you and your church can best join Jesus in building His Kingdom. I will give you a handout to take away with you to help you do this.  
(Allow discussion time to hand out the task (Annex 23), read through the tasks and answer questions.)
  
22. (Say) As you go about this exercise, try your best to include everyone, or at least representatives from all people in your church - children, youth, the elderly, women, people who are disabled - everyone should contribute to developing this picture.

In our next session each group will give a short presentation on their vision of the community living with Jesus as leader.

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.

Plan time at the end to:

- Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message
- Discuss the next meeting time and place
- Share the content of the next session
- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another
- Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer

### **Source Ideas**

Miller, D., Moffit, B., Allen, S. 2005 *God's Unshakable Kingdom*. Youth With A Mission Publishing, Seattle.



Ho, A. 2012. *Truth Centered Transformation. Module Two: Kingdom of God. Teacher Guide*. Copyright © 2012. Published by Reconciled World ([www.reconciledworld.org](http://www.reconciledworld.org)) under terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 license.

## Session 15 - Being a Kingdom Builder

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack (to be able to post flipchart pages, so participants can see more than one page at a time)
- Facilitator Bible
- 1 wide bucket with water, 1 rock
- Annex 24 - How to be a Kingdom Builder with Diagram - 1 copy for every participant
- Annex 25 - Story of Lepcha's family - 1 copy for the facilitator; 1 copy for each church group
- It is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 2.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time)

### Objectives

1. Briefly shared their church's vision of what the Kingdom of God would look like in their community
2. Brainstormed how individuals can be involved in building the Kingdom of God in their community
3. Participated in a daily-task drama
4. Discussed practical ideas of how an individual can glorify God in all daily activities
5. Examined how a family can bring transformation in a community
6. Committed to brainstorming and acting on ideas they have for influencing their family in the four areas of development

### Key Message

God's plan is to use us to build His Kingdom. We need to be transformed first.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 - 60 minutes

Take-home Task(s) - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

## Session Opening - 15 minutes

### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Review of take-home task(s)

1. (Ask) Who can remember the key message from last week?

### Key Message Session 14

*God's vision is to see His Kingdom come on this earth. This will bring transformation to our lives, and our families, churches and community.*

2. (Say) I've been looking forward to seeing and hearing about the picture that your churches have for what the Kingdom of God would look like in this community.  
(Ask) Who would like to share briefly first?  
(Allow time for each group to share. Encourage their ideas.)
3. (After each group has shared, ask) How did you find conducting this exercise with your church members?  
(Prompt questions can include)
  - a. Was it more easy or difficult than you thought? Why?
  - b. Was there anything about the process that surprised you?
  - c. Were you able to include children in the exercise? How did they contribute?
  - d. Were there others that contributed in ways that you didn't expect?

(Make sure each group plans to keep their vision of community safe in their church folder)

### Session Objective

1. (Say) This session is going to look more at how we personally can be involved in building the Kingdom of God in our community. God can do anything He wants. He could build His Kingdom without us, but that is not His plan. His plan is to use us as Kingdom Builders.

## Activity 1 - 60 minutes

## Activities Part 1 - 15 Minutes

### How to be a Kingdom Builder - 10 minutes

1. *(Say)* There are two main ways we can build God's Kingdom: 1) by increasing the number of people in His Kingdom as people are saved; and 2) by seeing people increasingly fulfill God's will.
2. *(Ask)* But, how do we do these things? From your experience, how do you build the Kingdom of God in your own life, your family, your community?
3. (Allow time for discussion. Write any ideas they have up on a flipchart. Link any of the discussion points to these four points of "How to be a Kingdom Builder")
  1. Start with yourself
  2. Teach and encourage your family
  3. Ask God to use you to impact others (pray)
  4. Serve others

(Toward the end, make sure the above four points are written up in some way.)



*BE VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE FOUR POINTS OF "HOW TO BE A KINGDOM BUILDER", FOUND BELOW AND IN ANNEX 24 SO YOU CAN FACILITATE THE BRAINSTORM AND HELP THE GROUP TO IDENTIFY EACH POINT.*

4. *(At the end of the brainstorm, say)* This is the privilege we have - to serve our King and help build his kingdom. It starts with us as individuals.

How to be a Kingdom Builder

**1. Start with yourself**

Ask these questions: Are you willing to be used by God? Are you willing to be obedient to God in every area of your life? What are one or two things that you could work on improving this week?

**2. Teach and encourage your family**

Encourage your family to do the same. As we read, we should be teaching our families at all times (Deut 6:7), no matter what we are doing. Look for ways to teach your family by your actions, by your words, and by your thoughts to help them start serving others as well.

**3. Pray - Ask God to use you to impact others**

Start praying and asking God to help you impact others. Look for opportunities. As you see people in need, ask God to show you how you can help those people. He will reveal to us at the right time the right way to help.

**4. Serve others**

Be involved in Acts of Love and find other ways to serve. Even if you feel like you are not able to do much, you should still use all the talents God has given you to serve. As you serve, you will start to grow and will find you are able to do more and more.

**Transformation starts with us - 5 minutes**

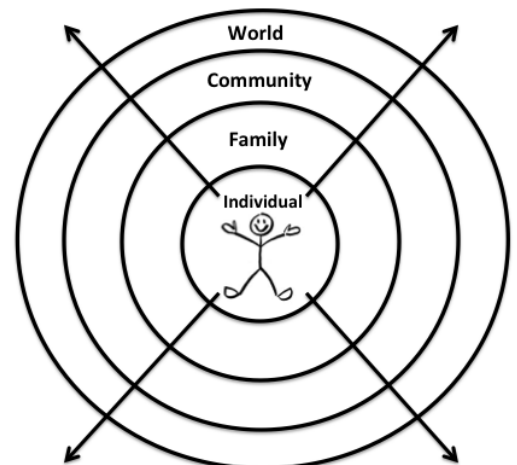
5. (Say) Our key message for today is this:

**Key Message Session 15**

*God's plan is to use us to build His Kingdom. We need to be transformed first.*

6. (Say) Transformation starts with individuals, but then expands to families, communities, and nations. This is a process. When individuals and families obey God, it impacts their communities. As communities start to live in obedience, this affects the communities around them, and ultimately nations. This is how we see the Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

7. (Say) This is a diagram that shows this process of transformation, it is like ripples of water that flow out.  
 (Draw up this diagram and explain the flow of transformation from the individual, to their family, to their community, to the world.)  
 (If relevant, say) For those of you who have done the community leaders training, you will notice it



is very similar to the “leader’s sphere of influence” teaching. It is a very similar process of influence.

8. *(Ask)* Can someone come and drop this rock into this large bucket of water for us? Lets watch what happens as one rock is dropped.  
(After the volunteer has dropped the rock into the bucket of water, encourage a brief discussion that the rock is like one individual. As the rock is dropped into the water, the ripples of water flow out from the center. It is the same with transformation. We must first be transformed, then ripples of transformation will begin.)
9. *(At the end of discussion, say)* I will give you a handout at the end with this diagram and the points of How to be a Kingdom Builder to take home with you.

### Activities Part 2 - 45 minutes

#### Glorify God in all things - Drama - 15 minutes

10. *(Say)* We identified that we have to start with ourselves. But how do we do that? We are unable to transform ourselves, only the Holy Spirit can do that within us over time. So what can we be thinking about or doing to help the Lord and his work in us?
11. *(Say)* Lets read two scriptures that help us with this. (Write up the scripture references and ask someone to read them out for everyone)

*<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*  
*Colossians 3:17*

*<sup>31</sup> So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*  
*1 Corinthians 10:31*

12. *(Say)* Both of these scriptures say “whatever you do”, do it for the glory of God. This is what we can think about and try and do. Lets begin by thinking about all the activities we do in a day. I am going to ask someone to act out what they do in a day, and someone else to write each activity up as they go.  
I will demonstrate first.  
*(Ask)* Can someone write up what they see me do?



(Prepare someone to write what they see you do, then lay on the ground and quickly and silently act out waking up, getting dressed, eating breakfast)

13. (After acting out, see if the person has written the activities they saw. Encourage the rest of the group to speak out their ideas. Explain that we do not need to get too specific or take too long.)
14. (Then, ask someone in the group to take over acting out the next activities of the day, and encourage the group to help the person writing. Encourage lots of fun and laughter! They can take turns acting out different parts of the day, as they like).
15. (When the drama has reached the end of the day, thank everyone involved.)

#### Reflection - 5 minutes

16. (Say) These are many of the things someone might do in a day. Can we really glorify God with all these different activities? Cleaning our teeth? Preparing food? Resting?
17. (Ask) Do you think you are glorifying God with every single one of these activities on this list? Why? How?  
(Encourage a few people to respond)
18. (Say) In the New Testament, we see recorded the different things Jesus did. Up to the age of 30, Jesus was a carpenter. In His community, He was not seen as a super spiritual leader, but rather an ordinary person. While Jesus was a carpenter, He was still leading a perfect life, as it was God's will for him. Jesus was also recorded taking rests, attending a wedding, sleeping, cooking a meal for his disciples.  
Were these ordinary things or spiritual things? They sound like our list of daily activities here.  
So while Jesus was seeking God's Kingdom at every moment, His time was still filled with many ordinary things. At those times, He was not outside of God's will, He was equally serving God in those things.
19. (Ask) What does this mean to you? How does this make you feel about everything you do in your day?  
(Allow a short time for 2-3 people to respond)

#### Application - 10 minutes

20. (Referring to the daily task list, ask) How can we bring glory to God as we do each of these things?  
(Point out a few of the activities that are considered "less spiritual", and specifically ask the question for those activities. For example, ask)

How can we bring glory to God when we are resting? Any ideas?  
How can we bring glory to God when we are eating? Any ideas?  
(Allow time for some discussion around 2 or 3 daily activities)

21. *(To end, summarize and say)* Every day we should wake up and think to ourselves, “How can I increase God’s Kingdom today? How can I live according to God’s rules in everything I do? How can I help my family to do the same?” The Bible shows us that God is more concerned with how we do things than what it is we do, as long as our actions are not sinful. Anything we do can be used to bring glory to God.
22. *(Ask)* Does this help explain our key message for today more?  
(Write up the key message. Highlight during the discussion that the more we look to bring glory to God in all things, the more we will be transformed in His likeness and help build His Kingdom)

### **Key Message Session 15**

*God’s plan is to use us to build His Kingdom. We need to be transformed first.*

### **Application – 15 minutes**

23. *(Say)* Listen to this true story of a Christian man and his family who demonstrate the effect of allowing God to transform us first, and then our families, and then the community in which we live. These people were not special or extra blessed. They were ordinary people like you and me. They may have had very little education, but they were willing to do what they could to build the Kingdom of God in their community.

*(Read the story of the Lepcha’s from Annex 25, slowly and clearly.)*

24. *(Ask the following questions to encourage discussion around the story)*  
How did Lepcha bring about the changes in this community? Who did he start with?  
How is the community different because of Lepcha? What are the evidences of the Kingdom of God coming on earth, in this community?  
What surprises you most in this story? Why do you find this surprising?  
What do you see in this story that could be similar to this community? What do you see that is different?  
*Where necessary, re-read certain portions of the story.*





25. *(Ask)* How do you think you can be like Lepcha in this community?
26. *Allow some time for discussion. To deepen the discussion you can ask:*
- Do you think it is possible to be like Lepcha in this community? Why or why not?



- b. Do you think it is possible for your family to be like Lepcha’s family in this community? Why or why not?
- c. What potential do you think families in your church have to be like Lepcha’s family in this community? Can you describe what you would like to see happen?

**Take-home Task(s) - 10 minutes**

27. (Ask) For our take-home task, who can remember Luke 2:52? Can someone remember the four areas we learnt about from this verse?

Wisdom 	Physical 	Spiritual 	Social 

<sup>52</sup> *And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.*  
 Luke 2:52

(Say) From this verse we learn that everyone needs to grow in all four areas.

28. (Say) In small groups this week, I want you to work to do two things.
29. First, I want you to re-read this story of Lepcha and his family. Look again at the changes that Lepcha brought to the community, and make a list under the headings social, spiritual, mental and physical.
30. Then, I want you to think of as many different ways you can each help your own families grow in each of the four areas identified in Luke 2:52. Once you have done this, have each person in your group choose one thing they will do under each area this week.

I will ask each of you to give one example of the way you have helped your family grow and develop next time we meet.

31. (Ask) Are there any questions?

(Allow time to clarify the tasks, pass out the hand-outs (Annex 25), help them decide how to go about their small group tasks.)

32. (Ask) Are you all willing to commit to doing this this week?  
 (Look for a verbal commitment to do this from each person or group)

33. (Say) I hope you are all able to continue planning and doing Acts of Love as well. Hopefully you can now involve other members of your church in the planning and doing too.

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.

Plan time at the end to:

- Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message
- Discuss the next meeting time and place
- Share the content of the next session
- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another
- Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer

### **Source Ideas**

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## Session 16 - The Church in the Kingdom of God - Part 1

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack (to be able to post flipchart pages, so participants can see more than one page at a time)
- Bible
- Blue and red colored markers
- It is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 2.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time)

### Objectives

1. Shared a practical way they helped their family develop in one of the four development areas
2. Discussed the word “Church”
3. Compared a living body and a dead body
4. Considered whether their church is more like a living body or a dead body
5. Identified the flow of transformation
6. Discussed how leaders could better equip the body; better help people be filled with living water
7. Committed to praying about their church body and encouraging individuals within the church body

### Key Message

The church is the living body of Christ, a community of living springs.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity - 60 minutes

Take-home Task(s) - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone

- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Review

1. *(Ask)* Can anyone remember the key message from last week?

### Key Message Session 15

*God's plan is to use us to build His Kingdom. We need to be transformed first.*

2. *(Ask)* How did you go planning and helping your family grow in the four areas of development? If we have time, I'd like to hear from each of you at least one idea that you've acted on since the last session. We have about 10 minutes.

(Allow time for each person to share, if possible.)

3. *(Say)* I am so encouraged to hear your testimonies. Thank you for sharing.

### Session Objective

4. *(Say)* In our previous lesson we looked at how to be a Kingdom Builder, and the transformation process—how it starts with you and moves to your family, community, and the nation. However, there is another important part to this process: the church. Today we are going to begin looking at the church, and how God's plan is for the church to play a vital role in building His Kingdom on earth too.

### Activity - 60 minutes

#### "The Church" - 10 minutes

5. *(Ask)* Turn to the person next to you and take 1 minute each to describe what you think the words "the church" means.  
(Allow 2 minutes)
6. *(Say)* Now, let's look at how Ephesians 1:22-23, which is talking about Christ, describes the church.  
(Write the scripture reference up. Ask someone to read.)

*<sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

*Ephesians 1:22-23*

7. (Ask) How is the church described here?  
(Answer - a living body)
  
8. (Ask) What do you think the role of the church is, from this scripture?  
(Allow for a short discussion.  
Answer - the church's role is to fulfill the work of Jesus - which we know from our last module is to bring reconciliation to ALL things.)
  
9. (Ask) What does Paul mean by "the church" in this scripture? Does he mean the individual church to which he is writing the letter? Does he mean their church building? What do you think?  
(Allow for some discussion.  
Answer - Paul is referring to the global church, made up of all the people who repent by faith and submit themselves to Jesus Christ as Lord.)
  
10. (Say) When we talk about 'church' in this session, we are talking about both your individual church as a living body, as well as the global church - all the churches in the whole world - as a living body. Notice that a church is never a building. It is always simply people living in community together who follow Christ.
  
11. (Say) We are now going to consider 2 of the different pictures of the church that the Bible gives us, before we consider how to apply this in our individual churches.

#### Picture 1: A living body - 15 minutes

12. (Ask) Can I have two volunteers to help me demonstrate something please?  
(Ask one person to lie on the ground pretending to be dead, and one person to stand next to them)



IF THIS IS NOT CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE, EITHER DRAW SIMPLE FIGURES OR ASK THEM TO IMAGINE. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PROVIDED A PIECE OF CLOTH OR SOMETHING FOR THE PERSON TO LIE ON.

13. (Say) Let's compare our two bodies here. What is the difference between this living body and this dead one?  
(Allow time for people to make comparisons - for example: the different body parts functioning as they are designed to; body parts working together; able to reach out to others)

14. (Ask) Which body do you think more reflects your church right now? Is your church alive? Are all the parts of the body moving and working together? Or is it more like the dead one - filled with all the parts, but the parts not doing anything, not functioning as they should? Think and pray about this quietly to yourself.

(Invite the volunteers to return to their places. Allow 2 minutes for quiet reflection).

15. (Write up this key message while people are thinking and praying)

### Key Message Session 16

*The church is the living body of Christ.*

16. (Say) Our first key message for today is this: The church is the living body of Christ.

Another way to think about whether our churches are more like living bodies of Christ in the community is to ask another question - I will give you more time to think about it and then ask your thoughts.

(Ask) What would happen if your church had to close down? Would the non-Christians in your community complain? Why or why not? Please think about that now.

(Repeat the question)

17. (Allow 1 minute for them to think quietly, and then ask) Would someone like to share what they have been thinking about? Do you feel that your church is living up to its full potential as a living body of Christ?

(Don't pressure anyone to answer this question. Move on to the next part if no one is immediately willing to share).

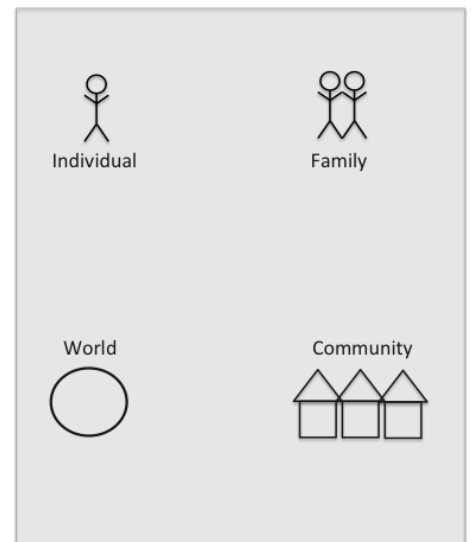
### Picture 2: Community of living springs - 15 minutes

18. (Say) Lets draw our transformation diagram from the previous lesson another way, to look at the role of the church in the Kingdom of God.

What were the four areas that transformation takes place in?

(Begin to write the four areas of transformation in a square, as shown here. Graphic images are suggestions only.)

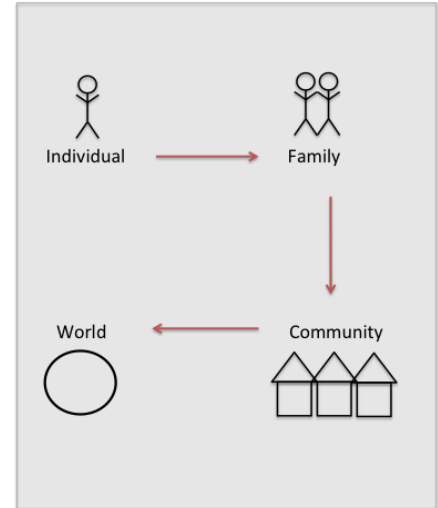
19. (Once all four areas have been identified by the group and drawn up in this rectangular shape, ask) Where



does transformation begin? Can someone come and draw arrows that show the direction of influence?

(Give a red pen to someone to draw and explain the flow of transformation)

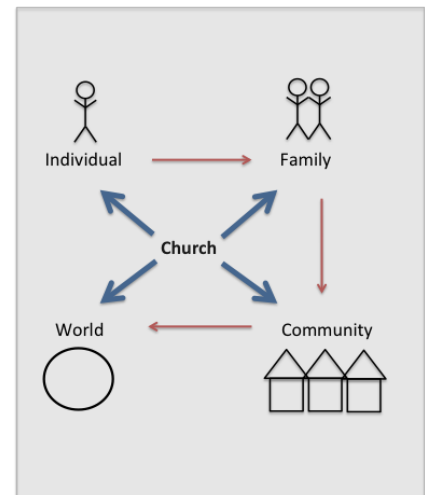
20. (Say) Now, let's see hear John 7:38. This gives us another picture of the church.  
 (Write the scripture reference up) I will read it slowly.  
 (Read again the underlined portion of the scripture)
21. (Ask) What does this mean for our churches? What image comes to your mind when you hear that your church is people filled with rivers of living, spiritual water? What does this make you think about?  
 (Allow 5 minutes for people to discuss this. Ask for any thoughts they have)



<sup>37</sup> On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."[c] <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.  
 John 7:38

22. (Ask) Does it excite you that your churches are filled with people who are filled with powerful living water? How does it make you feel?  
 (Allow 2 minutes for response)

23. (Write in the church in the diagram and draw in the blue arrows. Say) The church should be a community of living water springs (or rivers) and not a stagnant pool. The living water of Jesus can run from your church and saturate the landscape - no one can stop the flow. It can continue to flow since the source of that water is never exhausted. This water brings healing to individuals, families communities and the nations. This is our other key message.



24. (Write in the last half of the key message)

**Key Message Session 16**

*The church is the living body of Christ, a community of living springs.*

25. (Ask) Can you say this out loud with me please?  
(Repeat this message slowly, out loud with the group 2 or 3 times)
26. (Ask) Can you imagine what it would be like if everyone in your church committed themselves to seeing God's will be done in their own lives, in their families, in the church, and in the community. What impact would that have on the church and the community?
27. (Say) The more the people in your church worship Jesus, the more their lives should pour over with His love to those outside of the church - Just like springs of living water. Or, just like the ripple effect of transformation - water flowing out from the individual and affecting their family, their community.

**Application - 20 minutes**

28. (Say) Let's think again about the church as the living body of Christ. (Ask) Who is the head?  
(Answer - Jesus)  
(Once someone gives answer, say) Yes Jesus is the head of our churches. Listen to Ephesians 1:22-23, again:

*<sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

*Ephesians 1:22-23*

29. (Ask) What would be happen if Jesus were not the head of our body?  
(Answer - the body would die. Jesus must be the brains, the leader of our bodies. Without Him as ruler of our churches, the churches will die.)
30. (Say) Listen to Ephesians 4:11-12 and what Jesus, as the Head of our churches, gives to us:

*<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*

*Ephesians 4:11-12*

31. (Ask) So what is the role of church leaders (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers)?



(Answer - to equip people for service; to serve the head, Jesus, in building up His body)

32. (Ask) How can we be better at building up others so they are able to do works of service? How can we help people truly be filling up with living water that flows from them?

(Allow 5 minutes for ideas and discussion. Encourage their ideas.)

33. (Say) Often it is said that those who learn the most and grow the most are those who are serving others. Think about those who have been involved in your Acts of Love so far. (Ask) Do you think that the people from your churches who have been involved in your Acts of Love have been maturing as they have been serving?

(Allow a short time for discussion. If they can't think of anyone else, encourage them to consider their own growth)

34. (Ask) Why do you think people mature as they start to serve?

(Allow a short time for sharing of ideas)

<sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

35. (Say) One reason is shown in the Bible: Ephesians 2:10. It says

36. (Say) Isn't it amazing? Everyone in your church was created in Christ Jesus to do good works.

(Ask) Is everyone in your church doing good works? Think about that as we look at the take-home tasks.

### Take-home Task(s) - 10 minutes

37. (Say) The take-home task for this week is to read and apply 1 Corinthians 12:12-20 in your churches.

(Write the scripture reference up)

To build the Kingdom of God, we ALL need to work together. While one person can build a small piece of God's Kingdom, the whole church, living in accordance to God's will in every area of their life and helping others to do the same, can build God's Kingdom more effectively. This is how we can play our part in this process, preparing for the day in the future when one day God will bring his Kingdom fully and literally.

38. (Say) I know you have already considered this scripture previously regarding how we can encourage every member of our churches be light to our community and

serve the suffering and vulnerable, however this is very important and worth revisiting on a regular basis as church leaders.

39. *(Ask)* Is every member of your body playing an essential role at the moment? Are there any people who, if they stopped attending, wouldn't have any impact on the running of the church or your church's ministries or Acts of Love?
40. *(Say)* Please meet with your church leadership and pray over this scripture and consider these questions. Discuss how you could encourage every member to be like living water - engaged in your church and in Acts of Love.

Then, I'd like you to try and meet with as many members of your church as possible to encourage them that they are valued members of your church body.

41. *(Ask)* Are you able to commit to doing these tasks?  
(Allow time to clarify the two tasks (meeting and praying; encouraging individuals), answer questions, help them decide how to go about their small group tasks, receive a verbal commitment that they will do this task)
42. *(Say)* Next session I look forward to hearing how you decided to go about encouraging the different members of your church body.

### Closing - 5 minutes

Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.

Plan time at the end to:

- Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message
- Discuss the next meeting time and place
- Share the content of the next session
- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another
- Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer

### Source Ideas

Ooms, L.J. (2012) *Theology, Principles and Practice of Transformational Development: Lesson 25*

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## Session 17 - The Church in the Kingdom of God - Part 2

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack (to be able to post flipchart pages, so participants can see more than one page at a time)
- Facilitator Bible
- Flipchart diagram of the church impacting the Kingdom of God transformation process from last session
- Paper for groups to write ideas on
- Pens
- 1 story selected from Annex 26
- Annex 27 - 1 copy for each participant
- Annex 28 - cut out - 1 copy for for each group
- It is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 2.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time)

### Objectives

1. Shared their ideas for encouraging all the individual members of their church body
2. Brainstormed ideas for how their churches could reach out to transform families
3. Listened to a story of how a church transformed a community
4. Discusses practical ideas of how their churches could transform their own community
5. Categories their ideas into the “Four ways to serve our community”
6. Prepared to study parables of the Kingdom of God in small groups

### Key Message

The church's role in the Kingdom of God is to equip individuals, transform families, and transform communities

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 - 60 minutes

Take-home Task - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

## Session Opening - 15 minutes

### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Review

1. (Ask) How did you go with the take-home task? I'd like to hear how you applied the scripture in 1 Corinthians in your church this time. Who would be willing to share first?

(Prompt questions may include)

- a. What was different reading the passage through this time, in comparison to last time back in Session Four?
  - b. What specific ideas did you have for encouraging the people in your church?
  - c. How did people respond when you encouraged them that they are valuable, needed members of your church body?
  - d. In what way do you view your church body differently now to before?
2. (Ask) Can anyone remember the key message from last week?

### Key Message Session 16

*The church is the living body of Christ, a community of living springs.*

### Session Objective

3. (Say) In our previous lesson we looked at how the church needs to be a living body of Christ, and a community of living springs. We looked at how leaders of churches should build up every individual within the body of Christ. Today we will look closer at how the living Church plays its vital role in the Kingdom of God.

## Activity 1 - 60 minutes

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE FLIPCHART FROM THE LAST SESSION AVAILABLE

### Introduction - 10 minutes

4. (Say) Today we are going to start with our key message - it is:

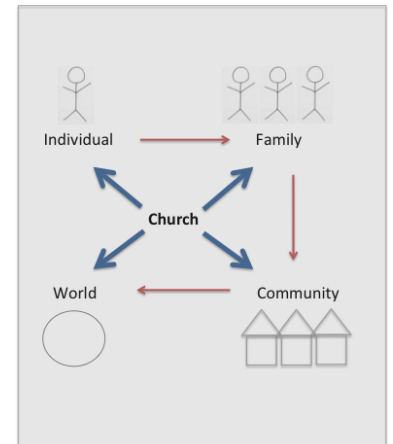
**Key Message Session 17**

*The church's role in the Kingdom of God is to equip individuals, transform families, and transform communities.*

(Write up the key message)

5. (Ask) Can you say this with me a couple of times?  
(Repeat this key message slowly, out loud, with all the participants 2 or 3 times)
  
7. (Ask) What do you think of this key message? Is it your experience of the church?  
(Allow some time for 3-4 people to respond.)
  
8. (Say) Last week we covered some of how the church should be equipping all it's people to become living springs; or active members of the body. And we have just heard some examples of how you have been equipping individuals already. (Ask) Can one or two more people share their ideas of how a church could equip individuals, or how they currently are equipping individuals?  
(Allow time for 1 or 2 more people to share)  
(Be sure to draw out that through their Acts of Love and many of the take-home tasks they are also equipping individuals)

9. (Put up the flipchart from the last session and point to the *related arrows as you summarize, saying*) We know that the church is to equip individuals and help them impact their families and communities and others. The church is also to look for ways to help and transform families and their community. Ultimately the global church desires to transform the whole world. This is the role of the church in the Kingdom of God.



**Small Group Brainstorm - Transforming Families - 20 minutes**

10. (Say) Let's think about families now, and how the church can help them to live as God intends.
  
11. (Ask) I'd like you to divide into two mixed groups. You don't need to be in church groups. Please spend 10 minutes thinking about ideas and opportunities for how the church can help families live as God intends. I will give you some paper to record your ideas, and then we'll come back together and share the ideas.

12. *(After 10 minutes, call everyone back together. Ask someone to write down everyone's idea as they share. Say) Lets hear your ideas for how churches can help equip and transform families.*  
(Allow each group a few minutes to share their ideas. When they are finished, thank them for their ideas and hard work)
13. (Share the following ideas if they didn't come out from the group ideas:  
The church can play a role in helping families live as God intends by teaching them how to have strong marriages, how to parent well, and by giving families opportunities to worship and serve together.)

### Story and Brainstorm - Transforming Communities - 30 minutes

BEFORE CONDUCTING THIS LESSON, READ THROUGH AND SELECT ONE OF THE TWO STORIES PROVIDED IN ANNEX 26. SELECT THE ONE THAT YOU THINK THE LISTENERS WILL MOST RELATE TO AND BE CHALLENGED BY.



14. *(Say) Let's consider now how our churches can impact our communities. Listen to the following story:*  
  
(Read slowly and clearly the story you have selected chosen from Annex 26.  
  
Then, facilitate a discussion with the questions provided at the end of the story. Write up on a flipchart their ideas to the last question.)
15. (Once you have finished writing down their ideas, say)  
These ideas are all good. Most of these ideas fit into these four ways the church can impact the community.
16. *(Hand out Annex 27. Say) Lets read each of these ways that the church can impact the community, and see which of our ideas fit into each way. I can mark them off as we go. Can someone read Point 1, Help people to live as God intends through service projects, please?*  
  
(Facilitator; place a check next to each idea as it is an example of one of the "Four ways the Church can serve the Community". Check understanding of each of the four ways by asking for other examples beyond the ideas they generated after discussing the story).

Annex 27: "Four ways the Church can serve the Community"

1. Help people to live as God intends through service projects

Our love for God and our neighbor causes us to serve. In the same way as Christ came to serve, the purpose of the church is to serve by helping people know and grow in Christ and by demonstrating His love to others. One example of this is your Acts of Love

2. Teach people to live in obedience to God

God made us and knows what is best for us. He has revealed how we should live in the Bible. We can teach others basic Bible principles. Even those who are not interested in Christianity may be interested in learning about health, how to have a strong marriage, or how to manage money wisely. These types of trainings help people to improve their lives as they live according to biblical principles and help to build good relationships between non-Christians and the church.

3. Share the gospel

Churches play an important role in helping people understand the gospel and nurturing new Christians.

4. Support community leader and other church and organization initiatives that are in line with biblical principles

Churches can play a unique role in building unity within the community by showing how different churches can work together toward initiatives that serve the community. Churches can also demonstrate their support of activities that are in line with biblical principles even though they are initiated by other organizations within or from without the community.

17. (Say) The Key Message for today is:

**Key Message Session 17**

*The church's role in the Kingdom of God is to equip individuals, transform families, and transform communities.*

(Ask) How does this key message make you think about your church now?

(Allow a short time to discuss this key message in relation to their church).

18. (Say) Are there any other ideas you'd like to add to this list you have generated here?

*Add in any further ideas people have.*

19. (Ask) Can one person from each group please make a copy of this for your church file?

*Look for an indication from each group that they will make a copy.*

### Take-home Task - 10 minutes

20. *(Say)* Our first take-home task today is to study a parable of Jesus from Matthew 13 that teaches us about the Kingdom of God. It is a longer parable that I would like you to develop either a drama, song, or picture that could be used to teach others about the parable and what it teaches us about the Kingdom of God.

21. *(Ask)* Can you form into two groups now (they don't have to be your church groups) so I can give you the Bible passage, and we can discuss any questions you have? In the next session you will present what you have created and learned to all of us.

(Allow time for the groups to form. Hand out 1 take-home task from Annex 28 to each group. Allow time for questions and making the tasks clear)

22. *(Ask)* Do you feel prepared to do this by next session?  
(Look for a verbal commitment from each group)

23. *(Say)* The other task is to continue working on planning or doing Acts of Love with and through your churches. Are you all continuing to do this? Is there any reason you are not? Lets talk about this briefly before we end.

*Allow time to discuss if they are continuing with Acts of Love or not. Encourage them to try and build it into a habit for all their church members.*

### Closing - 5 minutes

Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.

Plan time at the end to:

- Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message
- Discuss the next meeting time and place
- Share the content of the next session
- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another
- Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer

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## Session 18 - Kingdom Mathematics

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation



- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack (to be able to post flipchart pages, so participants can see more than one page at a time)
- Facilitator Bible
- 1 copy Annex 28 - take-home tasks from last session
- 1 copy Annex 29 - Basic Formula Pieces, cut out and ready for use.
- 1 copy Annex 30 - Widow and 2 Coins Formula Pieces, cut out and ready for use
- 1 copy Annex 31 - Elijah and the Widow Formula Pieces, cut out and ready for use
- 1 copy Annex 32 - Parable of the Talents Formula Pieces, cut out and ready for use
- Annex 33 - Take Home Task Activity Sheet - 1 copy per church group
- It is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 2.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time)



FACILITATOR: BE SURE TO BE COMPLETELY FAMILIAR WITH ALL THE STORIES AND EQUATIONS USED FOR THE KINGDOM MATHEMATICS EXAMPLES. THE FORMULA PIECES USED IN THIS LESSON OUTLINE AND IN THE ANNEXES ARE EXAMPLES YOU ARE WELCOME TO USE. HOWEVER, IF YOU CAN COME UP WITH BETTER WAYS TO REPRESENT EACH ELEMENT (ALTERNATIVES PICTURES YOU MAY DRAW, WORDS, OBJECTS ETC) THEN PLEASE USE THOSE INSTEAD.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU ORGANISE ALL THE PIECES FROM EACH ANNEX FOR EACH FORMULA IN A SEPARATE BAG OR ENVELOPE SO THEY ARE EASY TO ACCESS DURING THE LESSON.

### Objectives

1. Shared their learning from studying Jesus' parables of the Kingdom of God
2. Discussed how God can miraculously turn weakness into strength.
3. Applied God's ability to turn weakness into strength to an Act of Love example
4. Sorted stories of the 'Law of the Harvest' into before and after groups
5. Reflected on giving to God; how the poor too must give; the consequences of obedience/disobedience in giving to God and loving others.
6. Planned and committed to studying the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand with their church members.

### Key Message

God builds his Kingdom by multiplying the gifts and talents we give him

## Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 - 65 minutes

Take-home task - 5 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

## Session Opening - 15 minutes

### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Review

- I. (Ask) Who can remember what the key message last session was?

### Key Message Session 17

*The church's role in the Kingdom of God is to equip individuals, transform families, and transform communities.*

- II. (Ask) Which group would like to share first what they have prepared to demonstrate the parable they studied and what it teaches us about the Kingdom of God.
- III. (Encourage each group to share what they developed for their first parable. Allow a maximum of 5 minutes per group. Encourage questions from and discussion with the other groups once each group has shared. Have Annex 28 with you for reference.)



FACILITATOR, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THOROUGHLY READ THE TAKE-HOME TASK SCRIPTURES AND STUDIED THEM YOURSELF BEFORE THIS SESSION.

- IV. (Once all the groups have shared, encourage them all for their great work.)

### Session Objective

- V. (Say) Today we are going to finish this module on the Church and the Kingdom of God by considering what we have called Kingdom Mathematics. This is the

principle that God will build His Kingdom by multiplying the gifts and talents of the poor and weak.

### Activity 1 - 65 minutes

#### Current experience reflection - 5 minutes

- VI. (Ask) Can anyone think of a time when they have seen in their life or the life of someone else, God at work - using something that appears small or weak or poor, to achieve something wonderful? Like the parables of mustard seed or the yeast that we studied earlier this module. This can be difficult to think of, so I'll give you a few moments.  
(Allow one minute of silence while people think. Invite 1 or 2 people to share.)
- VII. (If no one is able to think of anything, move on to sharing this story from the Bible, say) Here is an example from the Bible:

"The Widow and Her Two Coins" (Mark 12:41)

One day when Jesus was at the temple sitting near the offering basket, He saw the rich drawing attention to themselves as they gave offerings. One poor woman had only two small coins. Because it was all she had, she felt ashamed and did not want others to see, so she gave her offering quietly, as if in secret.

Jesus gathered His disciples and made an observation saying, "This woman gave more than all of the others."

(Pause, then go on)

Notice that instead of stopping her, Jesus took special note of her sacrifice. Since then, the story of her giving has been written down for many to read. For more than 2000 years, this poor woman has inspired Christians who have read the Bible. Think how much has been given as a result of her example. This is an example of God at work, using something that appeared small or weak for something large and amazing! She gave what she had and God continues to multiply it. That is Kingdom Mathematics!

#### Experience - 25 minutes

- VIII. (Say) Lets look up Isaiah 40:28-41. Can someone please read it?  
(Write up the scripture reference)

<sup>28</sup> *Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.*

<sup>29</sup> *He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.*

<sup>30</sup> *Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;*

<sup>31</sup> *but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.*

*Isaiah 40:28-41*

IX. (Once the scripture is read, write up and re-read Verse 29)

*He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.*  
*Isaiah 40: 9*

- X. (Ask) In this verse, who is strong, and who is weak?  
(Answer: God is strong; We are weak)
- XI. (Ask) What does God do for us?  
(Answer: God gives us strength and increases our power)
- XII. (Say) Isn't this amazing? It is just like the parables of the Kingdom of God we've looked at. Lets put this scripture into a before and after equation.

(Lie down two pieces of flipchart paper on the floor. At the top of one, write BEFORE. At the top of the other, write AFTER.)

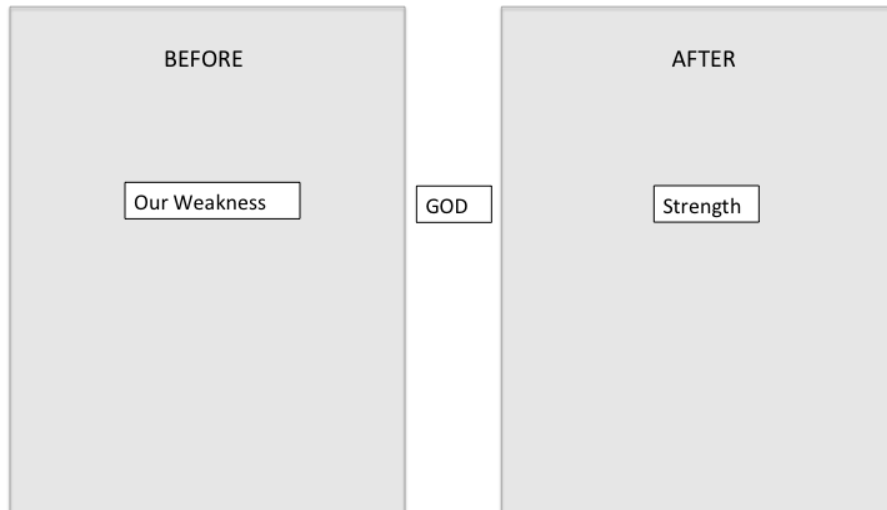


(Take out the cards from Annex 29: “Our weakness”, “God”, “Strength”  
Invite two people to the front and ask them to place the words “Our Weakness”  
and “Strength” in the correct places.)

(The equation should look like this)



- XIII. (Ask) What made the difference between the before and after pile?  
(Answer - GOD). Place the word GOD in the middle.



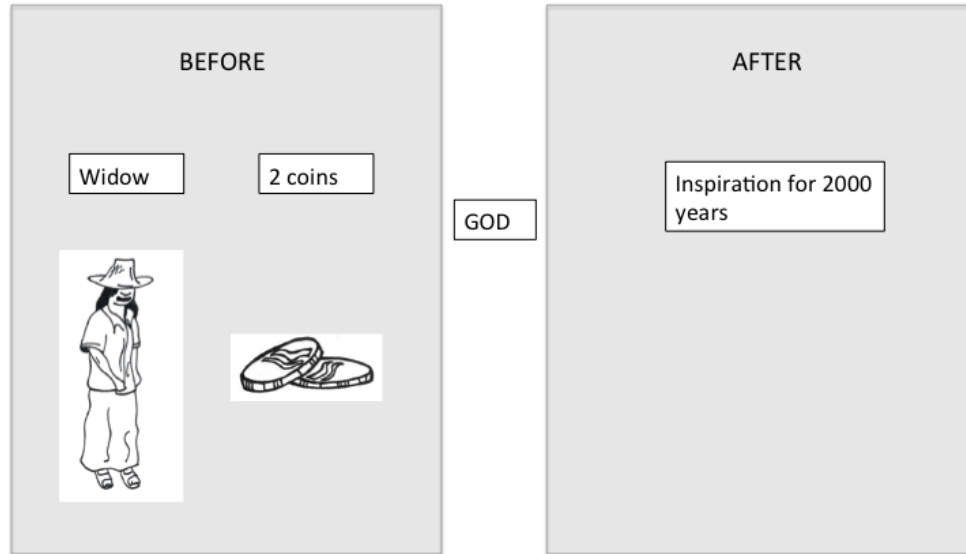
- XIV. *(Say)* God is the only one who can miraculously take our weariness and weakness and turn them into power and strength.
- XV. *(Ask)* Who would like to put the story of the widow and her two coins into this equation - into before and after piles?

*(Take off the "Our weakness" and "Strength" cards.)*

Hand out all the elements from Annex 30 to those who are interested: "Widow" "2 coins" "Inspiration for 2000 years".

Allow time for the group arrange the cards in the before and after groups. Help them out as needed.

The result should look like something this example, with words, pictures or symbols:



XVI. (Ask) What can we learn from this verse - this “equation”?  
(Invite 1-2 people to respond.)

XVII. (Ask) Have you seen this in action in during your Acts of Love? Can you think of how you have been weak, but with God, you have been made strong to serve and see change through your Acts of Love?  
(Allow time for at least 1 person to apply this idea to an Act of Love)



FACILITATOR - BEFORE THE SESSION, THINK OF AN EXAMPLE FROM ONE OF THE CHURCHES ACTS OF LOVE THAT YOU HAVE OBSERVED, IN CASE THE PARTICIPANTS STRUGGLE TO APPLY THE IDEA THEMSELVES. PREPARE TO EXPLAIN THEIR ACT OF LOVE IN TERMS OF THE FORMULA.

XVIII. (Say) Our Key Message for today is:

### **Key Message Session 18**

*God builds His Kingdom by multiplying the gifts and talents we give Him.*

(Write up the Key Message, say) This is another way of saying God gives us strength when we are weary and increases our power when we are weak.

XIX. (Ask) Would you say this out loud with me several times?  
(Repeat the Key Message out loud several times with the group.)

**Reflection - 20 minutes**

- XX. (Say) Lets look at another example from the Bible now. This is the story of the Elijah and the Widow and her last meal. It is from 1 Kings 17:7-16 (*Write the reference up, then read the story version below*).

It was a very difficult time in Israel's history. The country had been in a terrible famine for 3 ½ years. People were dying. Even Elijah, God's prophet, suffered. But God used a widow woman to care for Elijah. As Elijah walked through the town, he saw a woman picking up sticks and God told him to go to her and ask for "a little water in a jar to drink." The women agreed to get the water for Elijah, but before she could, Elijah then asked if she would also bring him bread to eat first, even before she and her son had eaten.

The woman replied, "As the Lord lives, I have only enough for one meal, for my son and I, and then we will surely die!" To this Elijah answered her, "Don't be afraid, the Lord will provide."

So the woman left and made food for Elijah from the small amount of oil and flour she had. Yet when she had used all of her oil and flour to prepare bread for Elijah, she was surprised to discover her jars of oil and flour were full again, as if they had not been touched. The woman said to Elijah, "I used all I had for you, but now it's back. Praise the Lord!"

The Bible tells us that not only did God provide enough for Elijah, the woman and the woman's family on that day, but He provided enough for her and her family to eat for another 3 ½ years! A miracle.

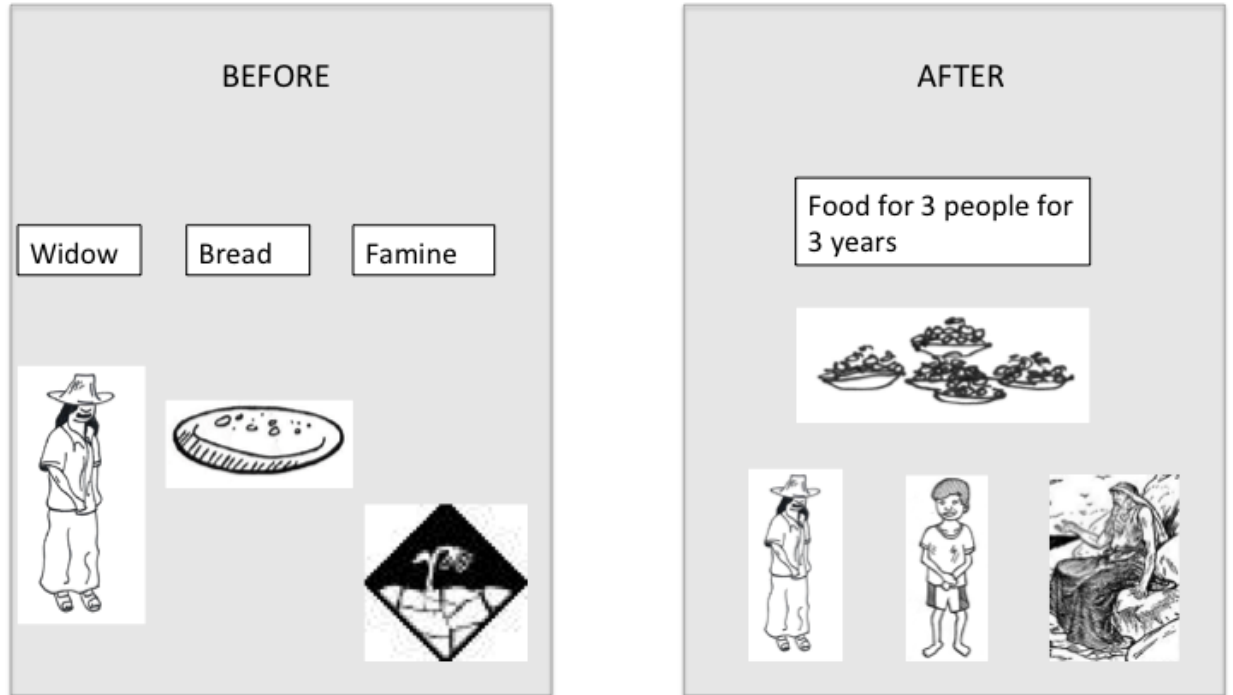
That's Kingdom Mathematics!

- XXI. (Ask) How can we turn this story into an equation? Let's group the main elements in the story into before and after piles.

(Put out the elements from Annex 31. Allow the participants to organize the elements into before and after piles.

The result should look like something this example, with words, pictures or symbols)





- XXII. (After they have completed the activity, ask these discussion questions)  
(Observation questions)
- What is the difference between these two piles? How did the people go from pile one to pile two?"
    - Answer: GOD
  - Was the woman poor?
    - Answer: Yes
- (Reflection questions)
- Do you think God could have fed Elijah another way?

- XXIII. (Say) Thinking of the story of the women and the coins in the temple with Jesus, and this story, lets think and discuss these ideas:  
(Allow as much time as needed to discuss each of these questions - do not say these answers listed here - allow the participants to come to this conclusion together)
- Does Jesus excuse the poor from giving?
    - Answer - no.
  - Do givers always see or experience personal blessing in this life?
    - Answer - not necessarily. The widow who gave the two coins did not. We have already been given the ultimate blessing of eternal life.
  - Is anything "too little" or "too insignificant" to give to God? Do we need special things to be able to give to God?
    - Answer - nothing is too insignificant. We only need what we already have.

- d. Based on these two stories, what do people need to do in order to be obedient to Jesus' command to love their neighbors?
  - iv. Answer - give sacrificially from what they already have
- e. Whether we are poor or well off, what attitude should we have in giving?
  - v. Answer - An attitude of faith, obedience, and humility
- f. Do you think that God blesses the giving of the poor? What examples do you have?
  - vi. Answer - yes, he can multiply it in amazing ways.
  - vii. Examples - personal examples, the parables, these scriptures

**Application - 15 minutes**

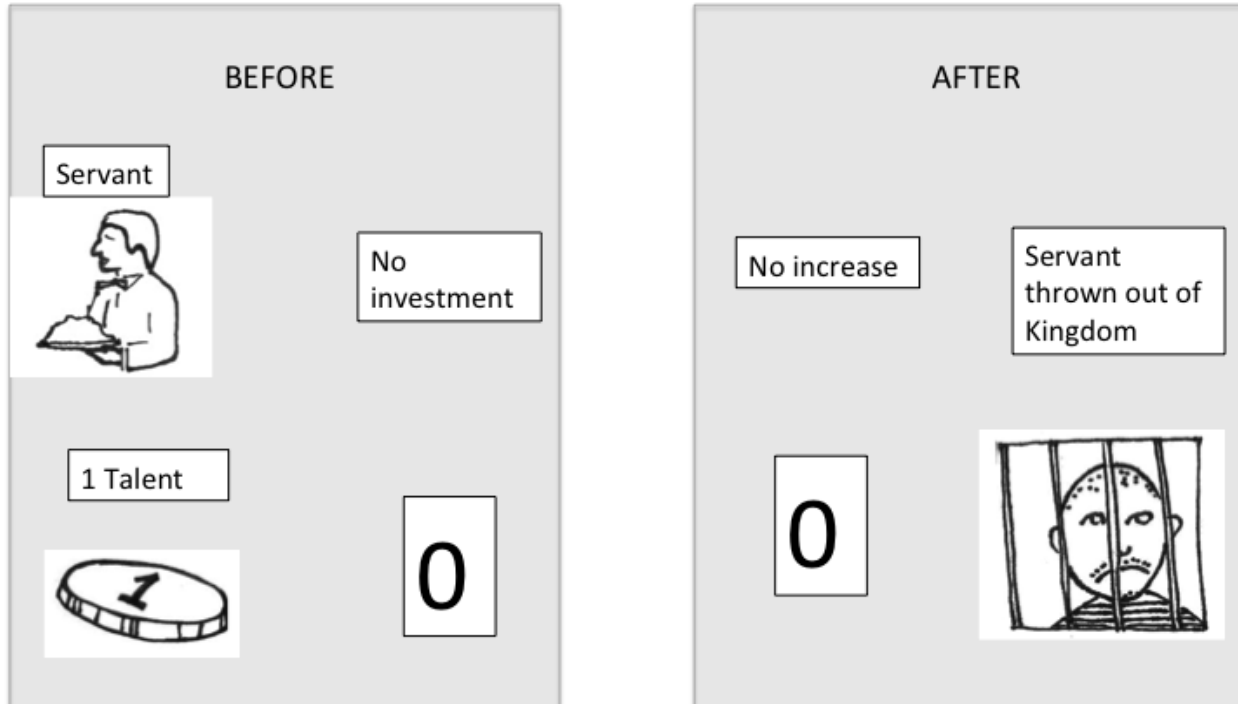
- XXIV. *(Say)* We will look at one last story from the Bible quickly. This one is not so happy. It is the parable of the talents from Matthew 25:14. *(Write up the scripture verse, then read)*

There was once a wealthy man going on a long journey. Before leaving, he called his three servants. To the first, he gave five coins and said, "Put it to work until I return." To the second, he gave two coins and said, "Put it to work until I return." And lastly, to the third, he gave one coin and repeated, "Put it to work until I return." The wealthy man went away and after a very long time he came back. He once again called his three servants and asked how they had done while he was gone. The first servant reported he had gained five more coins. To this, the wealthy man replied, "Well done! Faithful with few, now have more." The second servant then reported he had gained two more coins and again the wealthy man replied, "Well done! Faithful with few, now have more." Then lastly, the third servant explained, "I know you are a hard and difficult man. I was afraid to lose the coin you gave me so I buried it. It is not lost." To this the wealthy man replied, "Lazy and wicked servant!" He took his coin, gave it to the first servant, and threw him out of the Kingdom.

- XXV. *(Say)* This too is Kingdom Mathematics. Lets sort this story into before and after piles as well.

*(Put the elements from Annex 31 out and ask them to sort them into before and after piles)*

The result should look like something this example, with words, pictures or symbols)



- XXVI. (Once the group has sorted the piles, ask these discussion questions, allowing the group to discuss answer the questions as they can for 1-2 minutes each)
- a. Who was given the least, the poorest? But look what happened! Doesn't God care about the poor? So why was he thrown out of the Kingdom?
    - i. *Answer* - He did not take the little he had and use all of it for the development of the Kingdom
  - b. What consequence is there even for the poor if they do not obey Jesus?
    - i. *Answer* - They will not be a part of the Kingdom of God. They will be thrown out.

- XXVII. (Once the consequences of the story are understood, summarize and say)  
Let's look back at our key message for today:

**God builds his Kingdom by multiplying the gifts and talents we have**

We are so fortunate that our Heavenly Father has given each of us something that we can give - be it a skill, ability, a loaf of bread, a coin.... We are called to give everything we have to help build his Kingdom. We can do that because we know He is faithful and will do amazing things to take what we give and make it into something so much more for His Kingdom.

- XXVIII. (To conclude, ask the group to think through the following questions. Say) This study today should make us think about these questions:
1. How much have I been applying these principles of Kingdom Mathematics in my personal life?

2. How much are these principles being practiced in my church?
3. What changes can I make to apply these principles more in my life and church?

XXIX. (Ask) Please take 5 minutes now to share with a partner what you are thinking and feeling about these questions. I will read them again.  
(Read the above three questions and allow the participants to discuss their responses in pairs.)

### Take-home task - 5 minutes

XXX. (Say) The take-home task for this week is to first meet in your church leadership groups to look at the principles of Kingdom Mathematics in one more story in the Bible: The story of Jesus feeding the five thousand.

Then, I'd like you to share this the principles of Kingdom Mathematics with your church by sharing the story with them and asking them to help organize the elements of the story into piles, just like we have here. I have handouts for you to help with this.

Are there any questions?

(Allow time to provide the take-home task handouts from Annex 32 and answer any questions. Encourage them that they are to make their own symbols or cards to represent the elements in the story)

XXXI. (Say) Next session we will hear what you learned from doing these exercises with your church members.

### Closing - 5 minutes

Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.

Plan time at the end to:

- Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message
- Discuss the next meeting time and place
- Share the content of the next session
- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another
- Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer

### Source Ideas

Miller, D., Moffit, B., Allen, S. 2005 *God's Unshakable Kingdom*. Youth With A Mission Publishing, Seattle.

Ho, A. 2012. *Truth Centered Transformation. Module One: Introduction to Wholistic Ministry. Teacher Guide.* Copyright © 2012. Published by Reconciled World ([www.reconciledworld.org](http://www.reconciledworld.org)) under terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 license.

## IV. Module 4: The Church in Action

### Overview Table

Session	Key Messages
Session 19: Our church	Jesus has been and continues to work in and through us and our church.
Session 20: Our community	Jesus is already at work in our community. We are to join Him in his work.
Session 21: Shaping our ideas	Jesus encourages us to plan before acting on our ideas.
Session 22: Our Action Plan 1	The mission of the church is to discern and then participate in God's mission in the world.
Session 23: Our Action Plan 2	The mission of the church is to discern and then participate in God's mission in the world.
Session 24: Evaluation	We need to evaluate and report what we do. This helps us to learn, be faithful, encourage others, and give testimony to how God has used our efforts.

## Session 19 - Our Church

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation



- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack (to be able to post flipchart pages, so participants can see more than one page at a time)
- Facilitator Bible
- Flipchart paper for groups
- Different colored markers for groups
- It is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 2.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time)

### Objectives

1. Reflected on their experience of teaching and studying the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand
2. Developed a church historical timeline
3. Analyzed past events in their church as positive or negative
4. Praised the Lord for what he has done in and through their churches to date
5. Considered what to build on for the future with their church
6. Committed to completing their timeline and praying with their church members about how they can best join God in his mission

### Key Message

Jesus has been and continues to work in and through our church.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 - 60 minutes

Take-home task(s) - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer

- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Overview

1. *(Say)* Today we begin another module, called God's Church in Action. In this module we are going to look more at how you and your churches can pray and join God in His mission to build his Kingdom on earth. We will build on many of the tasks you have already done, along with some new tasks, to create a church plan.

### Review (if implementing this module following module 3)

2. *(Say)* Before we start, I'd like to hear briefly from each church group about your experience of teaching the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand, and the principle of God multiplying the resources we sacrificially give.
3. *(Ask)* Tell me how you went studying the scripture and teaching others?  
(Encourage at least 2-3 responses. Prompt questions include)
  - a. How did you organize to share the story and sort the elements of the story out with your church members?
  - b. What was different about sharing the parable in this way than how you may have read or taught the parables of Jesus before?
  - c. What was the most valuable part of this task? Was it meeting with your small group or teaching and discussing with your church family?
  - d. What new insights have you learned from this task?
  - e. What new insights did your church members have?

### Objective

4. *(Say)* Today we are going to start the planning process by first identifying key events that have shaped your church as it has developed, and to see what to build on for the future. We know that God can take the small offerings we have and turn them into something big for His Kingdom. This can happen with our churches too.

### Activity 1 - 60 minutes

#### Experience - Historical Timeline - 30 minutes

5. *(Say)* Lets work in our church groups for this session. You will begin a historical timeline of your church.

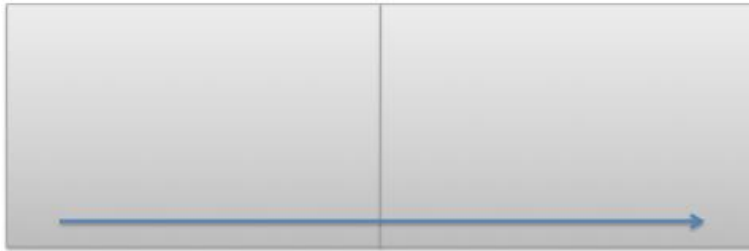
*(If conducting this after an HCA has been conducted, say)* This is very similar to the community historical timeline that has been developed. However it is specific to your church.



(Say) Part of our take-home task at the end of this session will be to show this to your church members and maybe work more on it with them.

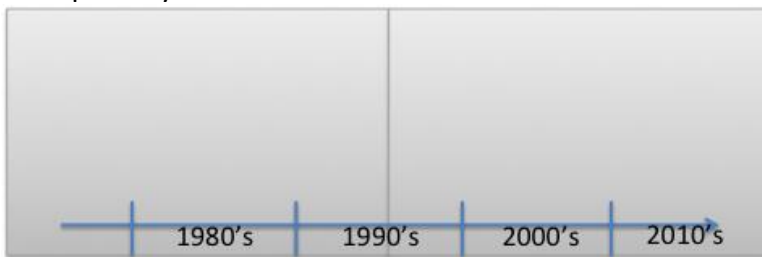
6. (Hand out 2 large sheets of paper and 2 or 3 different colored pens to each church group. Encourage the groups to lay them across some tables or the floor with enough room for people to walk around it.
7. (Once the groups are set up, say) First, draw a long line down the edge of the papers, like this.  
(Choose one group to demonstrate with)

Example only:



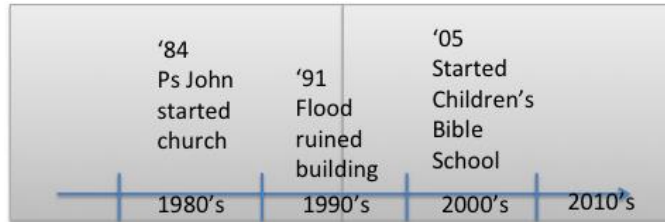
8. (Say) Now, depending on your how long your church has been around, decide what length of time that line represents and divide it up into sections. It could be one year, five years, ten years or more.  
(Quickly visit each church group to check they understand)

Example only:



9. (Say) Now, as a group, decide on the key events in your church. Mark them with either words or drawing on the time line to show when they happened. You might want to include when you started doing Acts of Love, for example. I will give you fifteen minutes to do this.

Example only:



(As you move around the groups, encourage them to think about including things like if they have partnered with any other organization, received training from their denomination)

(Give the groups a 5-minute warning at 10 minutes)

### Reflection - 15 minutes

10. (After the 5 minutes, say) If you are not finished that is OK. You can finish it later with your whole church. For now, I would like you to discuss these questions in your groups:

- a. What have been the best moments in your church? Why?
- b. What have been the most challenging moments? Why?

I have purposely given you different colored pens so you can mark the events that went well, or were positive in one color, and events that did not go so well, or were difficulties that you faced, in another color.

Lets take 10 minutes to do this.

FACILITATOR: DECIDING WHETHER AN EVENT WAS POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE CAN BE DIFFICULT. THIS IS A GOOD DISCUSSION POINT FOR PEOPLE. THE POINT IS NOT TO GET EVERY EVENT MARKED, BUT RATHER HELP PEOPLE REALIZE THAT MANY EVENTS CAN BE BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE. JESUS IS AT WORK IN ALL THE EVENTS.

### Application - 15 minutes

11. (After 10 minutes, ask someone to lead everyone in a song of praise and celebration for all the Lord has done in and through the churches as shown on their timeline)

12. (After the worship, say) This is our key message for this week:

### Key Message Session 19

*Jesus has been and will continue to work in and through our church.*

13. (Ask) Can you please repeat this with me?  
*Repeat slowly, out loud, 2 times.*

14. (Ask) Do you agree with this key message? How has working on these timelines made you feel?

15. (Say) I would like you now to discuss in your groups what you think you can build on looking ahead into the future of the timeline of your church. Churches are not to create their own vision but rather discover and participate in God's mission of building His Kingdom. Looking at where we have come from, and considering all the gifts and abilities he has given our church body can help us to do that.

Take some time now to talk about this a little.

(Allow ten minutes for discussion in their groups. Visit each group to check that they understand the instructions.)

### Take-home task(s) - 10 minutes

16. (Say) The take-home task for today is to take away this timeline and show it to your church members. Invite them to continue working on it with you. Then, spend time with everyone in praise and worship, celebrating where Jesus has been at work.  
After you have praised God for all he has done, invite the church to pray with you for discernment on how your church can participate in God's mission in the future. If you have specific ideas, you can start to write them down.
17. (Ask) Is this clear? Are there any questions?  
(Allow time for questions, to clarify the task and sort out materials)
18. (Ask) Are you all willing to do this by the next time we meet?
19. (Say) Please bring your completed timelines and any ideas you have with you to the next session.

### Closing - 5 minutes

Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.

Plan time at the end to:

- Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message
- Discuss the next meeting time and place
- Share the content of the next session
- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another
- Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer

### Sources

Njoroge, F, Raistrick, T, Crooks, B, Mouradian, J (2009) *Umoja: Facilitator's Guide*, Tearfund, Teddington.

Food for the Hungry and P Keys (2012). FH CFCT Toolkit #4: Community and Church Leaders Relationship Building Toolkit, A Toolkit for Implementing FH's Child-Focused Community Transformation (CFCT) Model, Washington, D.C.: Food for the Hungry

## Session 20 - Our Community

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation



- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack (to be able to post flipchart pages, so participants can see more than one page at a time)
- Facilitator Bible
- 10 seeds
- It is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 2.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time)

### Objectives

1. Heard an update of the strategy of their community leaders for developing their community
2. Assessed the presence of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in the community as a whole
3. Reflected on the fact that Jesus is already present and at work in their community
4. Committed to brainstorming how to help grow the fruits of the Spirit in their community with their church members.

### Key Message

Jesus is already at work in our community. We are to join Him in his work.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1- 60 minutes

Take-Home Task - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Review

1. (Ask) How did sharing and developing your church timeline go with your church? (Prompt questions may include)
  - a. How did people respond to the idea? Were they encouraged? Praising God?
  - b. Are you willing to share any hopes, dreams or plans you have for the future?(Encourage 2-3 people to respond)
2. (Ask) What was the key message from last week?

### Key Message Session 19

*Jesus has been and will continue to work in and through our church.*

3. (Say) I am so encouraged to see how God has been working in and through your churches. Make sure you save this timeline and any of the hopes, dreams or plan you have in your church folder.

### Objective

4. (Say) As the next step of our planning process, we are going to spend time thinking about our community in a different way to what we have before. This will help us be unique, as the church - the body of Christ - in helping the community develop and transform.

### Activity 1- 60 minutes

#### Discussion - 10 minutes (Optional, if conducted as part of CFCT, use after the Community Transformation Plan has been developed)

5. (Say) One of the ways we can serve our communities is by knowing the strategy of the community leaders and helping them achieve their vision if we can, and where appropriate.  
I have asked \_\_\_\_\_ to update us on dreams the community leaders have, and the current plans and activities happening throughout the community.
6. (Allow the person to share for 5 minutes or so)

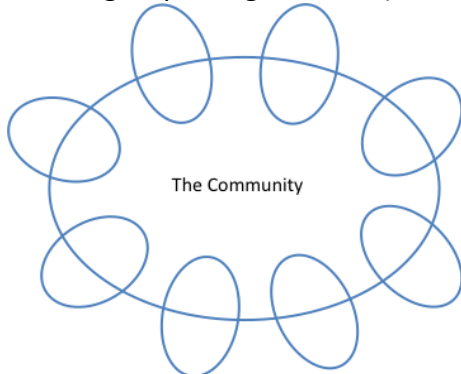


FACILITATOR - AHEAD OF TIME YOU NEED TO RESEARCH AND PLAN FOR THE BEST WAY AND IF IT IS NECESSARY TO UPDATE THE CHURCH LEADERS ON THE COMMUNITY CT PLAN. WHEREVER POSSIBLE, INVITE SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOURSELF TO UPDATE THE CHURCH LEADERS. IF A CHURCH LEADER IS PART OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP GROUP, ASK THAT PERSON. IF THE COMMUNITY PLAN IS VERY CLEAR TO ALL THE CHURCH LEADERS, SKIP THIS SECTION.

7. (Thank the person once they have presented. If they are a church leader move straight on. If not, invite the group to ask questions and have a discussion before saying goodbye to the person.)

**Experience – Fruit of the Spirit Measurement – 40 minutes**

8. (Say) Part of planning is to research the current state of something we desire to change. In our case, we want to see the Kingdom of God growing and spreading throughout this community - that is what we want to change.
9. (Say) We are going to do an activity that explores how much you think the Fruits of the Spirit are currently present in your community. This is another way of thinking about how much the Kingdom of God is already evident in your community. It will give us more ideas on ways in which we as churches can uniquely serve our community.
10. (If this is conducted within CFCT, you may also say) This exercise is very similar to the values measurement exercise from the community leaders training, and uses the same 10-seed method of measurement as was used during the Holistic Community Appraisal. We will be able to build on what your community leaders have already done to analyze and learn about your community.
11. (First, draw an outline of this diagram on the ground or paper. Make it large enough so that the '10-seed' ranking can easily take place with everyone in the group being involved.)



(Say) The inner circle represents your community as a whole. Each small circle represents one fruit of the spirit.

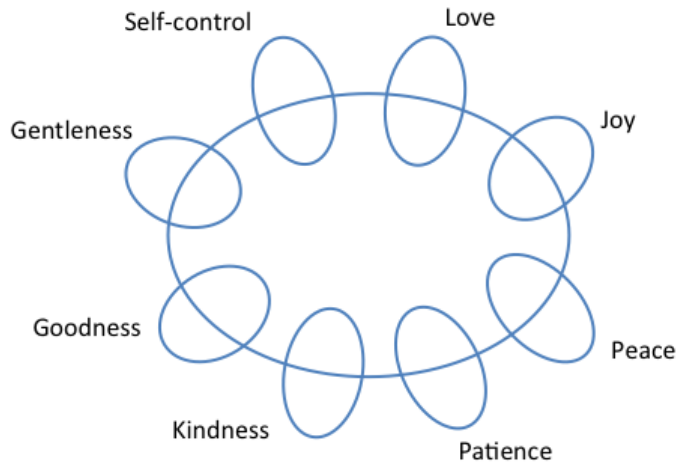
12. (Say) I'm going to label each small circle with one of the fruits of the spirit identified in Galatians 5:22-23. Can someone please look up and read that scripture while I do that?  
(Write up the scripture reference on a flipchart. Then, label each small circle while someone reads.).

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*



(PRIOR TO THIS LESSON YOU NEED TO HAVE DECIDED HOW BEST TO TRANSLATE THESE CATEGORIES. CONSIDER USING SYMBOLS IF FEW OF YOUR LEADERS ARE LITERATE. YOU MAY WISH TO PREPARE LABELS ON PAPER IF YOU CONDUCT THIS ON THE GROUND)

(The diagram will now look like this)



13. (Say) Now consider these ten seeds (*pick up ten seeds in your hand*). These ten seeds represent the total presence of one of these fruits of the spirit in your community.

(*Explain*) The amount of seeds that are placed in the part that overlaps the large community circle represent the extent to which a fruit of the spirit is present in the community.

The seeds that lie outside the circle represent the amount of the fruit of the spirit you feel is not present in the community.

14. (*Give this example: say and place the seeds down*) For example, if you decided your community does not show much kindness toward one another, you may place only 3 seeds on the inner part of the 'kindness' circle that overlaps the large community circle; and you would place the remaining 7 seeds on the outside part of the circle.

15. (*Continue with another quick example*) However, if you believe your community shows a lot of self-control, you would place maybe 8 seeds on the inner part of the self-control circle, and only 2 seeds on the outside (*pick up the seeds and replace them in this example*)

16. (*Ask*) Is this clear? Are there any questions?

(Don't allow too much time for questions. It is better to start the exercise once 1 or 2 people seem to understand. The other people will quickly catch on.)

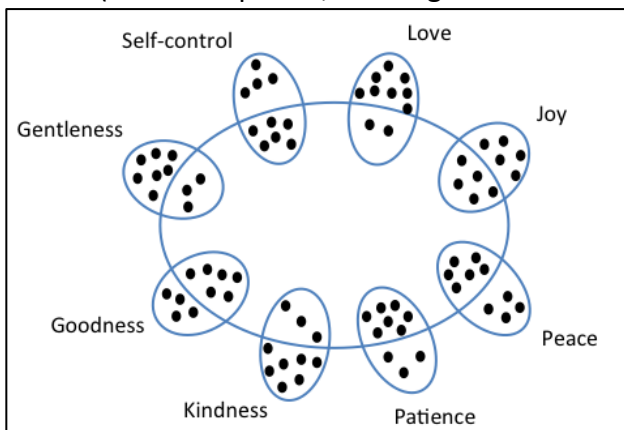


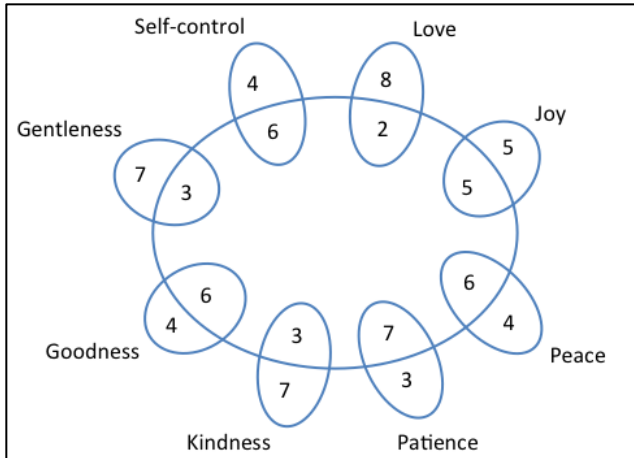
17. (Ask) Think about your community, how will you distribute your ten seeds? Lets start with LOVE. “How much do people show LOVE toward one another in this community?”
18. (Put the seeds down in the LOVE circle and invite the group to move the seeds around to discuss and come to a consensus. Do not hurry this process - their discussion is important. Encourage them to discuss what they mean by “Love”.)
19. (Say) Once you have come to a consensus, record on the diagram your final decision with circles to represent the seeds and/or numbers to represent the seeds.

FACILITATOR, SEE EXAMPLES BELOW

20. (Repeat the process for each fruit of the spirit: Your questions may go something like this)
  - a. “How much JOY is exhibited by people in this community?”
  - b. “How much PEACE is evident in this community?”
  - c. “How PATIENT are people with one another in this community?”
  - d. “How KIND are people to one another in this community?”
  - e. “How much do people choose to be GOOD in this community when they are faced with choices?”
  - f. “How much do people deal with one another and their faults with GENTLENESS?”
  - g. “How much do people exercise SELF-CONTROL in this community?”

21. (Once completed, the diagram should look something like these examples)





(In this example, it looks like the church leaders believe there is a higher degree of patience, and some peace, goodness and self-control; but not so much love, kindness or gentleness.)

**Reflection – 10 minutes**

- 22. *(Once the diagram has been completed, ask)* How did you find that exercise? What did you find most interesting? What can you learn about your community by looking at your diagram?  
(Allow them some time to discuss. Encourage them to make comparisons between the fruits of the spirit to evaluate their understanding of the exercise.)
- 23. *(Ask)* What is positive about this diagram? What do the seeds in the community circle give us evidence of? Something we studied in the last modules.  
(Allow a short time to discuss the answer)  
(Answer: evidence of people created in the image of God; evidence of Jesus at work in the community)
- 24. *(Say)* Our key message for this session is:

**Key Message Session 20**

*Jesus is already at work in our community. We are to join Him in his work.*

- 25. *(Ask)* What do you think about this key message? How does this make you feel as church leaders?  
(Allow a short time for discussion. Look for ideas of being encouraged, supported, not doing things alone, starting with something not nothing.)
- 26. *(Ask)* What do we want to see changed in this diagram over time as we serve our community?

(Answer: the number of seeds in the community circle. More and more people exhibiting the fruits of the spirit)

27. *(Ask)* Would someone mind making copies of this so that each church can have a copy for their church folder? Thank you.

### Take-Home Task - 10 minutes

28. *(Say)* The first part of your take-home task for today is to take your copy of this exercise and show and explain it to your church members. You can repeat the exercise with them if you wish, however it is not necessary. Then, after you have explained this scripture and this exercise, your task is to encourage everyone to think of ideas of how you as a church body could help to increase the Fruits of the Spirit that are not very present in the community.
29. For example, you might ask, “How could we help to grow love in our community?” “What could our church do to bring peace to our community?”
30. *(Ask)* Does that make sense? I want you to come to the next session with a list of ideas from everyone at your church about how you can help build the Fruits of the Spirit in this community.
31. (Allow some time for questions and discussion)
32. *(Ask)* Can each of you commit to doing this with your churches before the next session?  
(Look for a verbal commitment from a representative from each church group)
33. *(At the end, say)* This assessment tool can be also used with your own church to measure how much your church body feels the fruits of the spirit are present in your church. This is not the focus of our trainings so we are not doing it. However, if you are interested in the future, you simply make the large circle in the center your church, instead of your community.

### Closing - 5 minutes

Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.

Plan time at the end to:

- Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message
- Discuss the next meeting time and place
- Share the content of the next session
- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another
- Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer

**Sources**

Jayakaran, Ravi. (2012), Values Change Index, Personal Discussion with Author.

## Session 21 - Shaping our ideas

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation



- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack (to be able to post flipchart pages, so participants can see more than one page at a time)
- Facilitator Bible
- Flipchart paper and markers for each church group
- Water cup or bottle
- Children's school exercise book
- 10 seeds - enough for every participant to have 10 seeds each
- It is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 2.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time)

### Objectives

1. Reflected on their experiences of planning their Acts of Love
2. Considered Jesus' encouragement to plan before acting
3. Collated their ministry ideas into a church idea chart
4. Participated in a 10-seed ranking exercise
5. Committed to completing their church idea chart and a 10-seed ranking exercise with their church members

### Key Message

Jesus encourages us to plan before acting on our ideas.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 -60 minutes

Take-home task(s) - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance

- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Review

1. (Ask) Who can remember the key message from last week?

### Key Message Session 20

*Jesus is already at work in our community. We are to join Him in his work.*

2. (Ask) How did sharing the Fruits of the Spirit exercise with your churches go?  
(Prompt questions may include)
  - a. Did you teach on the Fruits of the Spirit scripture at all?
  - b. In what way did it affect people? Did it motivate people? How so?
  - c. How did brainstorming ways to increase the Fruits of the Spirit go?
3. (Ask) Would anyone like to share a new idea for serving your community that came up as a result of thinking in this way?  
(Allow a short time for 1-2 people to respond if possible. Congratulate everyone on their work)

### Objective

4. (Say) Today we will learn two tools that will help you to begin planning with your church in a comprehensive way that you can repeat in the future. Throughout these sessions you have been generating many ideas of opportunities to serve. Now we will gather them all together and decide where to focus first.

### Activity 1 -60 minutes

#### Current experience - 10 minutes

5. (Say) To begin, I'd like you to think about your most recent Acts of Love and the planning package you have been working with.  
(Ask) What has been your experience of planning Acts of Love with your church?  
(Prompt questions include)
  - a. In what ways have you found the planning ideas helpful or unhelpful to your Acts of Love? Why do you think that is the case?
  - b. Can you compare what is different between before you used to plan for Acts of Love, and now that you do plan?  
(Try and encourage reflection with specific examples from each church group represented)
6. (Say) Let's look up Luke 14:28-30. Can someone please read?  
(Write up the scripture reference)

<sup>28</sup> “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’  
Luke 14:28-30.

7. (Ask) What is Jesus saying to us through this scripture?  
(Allow 1-2 people to respond)
  
8. (Say) Here is our key message for today:

### **Key Message Session 21**

*Jesus encourages us to plan before acting on our ideas.*

(Write up this key message)

9. (Ask) Do you agree with this? How does it make you feel?  
(Allow a short time for response)
  
10. (Ask) What is our churches equivalent of the tower, do you think? For our church plan, what is it that we are trying to build by having the plan?  
(Allow 1-2 people to respond. Look for answer: The Kingdom of God in our community)
  
11. (Summarize, say) I am encouraged that Jesus encourages us to plan first, and then work hard to achieve our goal.

### **Experience 1 - Ideas Chart - 30 minutes**

12. (Say) To begin our planning, we want to bring together all the ideas for serving or ministry that you have had into one place, and then choose which ideas to start with.

(Ask) Please get into your church groups and draw up this table on a sheet of paper like I am.

(Had out a large piece of flipchart paper to each group)

(Draw up this basic table on your facilitator flipchart and write in the column labels: Wisdom, Physical, Spiritual, Social)

	Wisdom	Physical	Spiritual	Social

13. (Ask) What are these four column titles? Where do they come from in the Bible?

(Answer: Luke 2:52 - the Four Areas of Development)

14. (Say) On the left, we are going to write in two ways the church can think about organizing all its activities

(Write in the Row Headings only: Serve our Community, Build the Body of Christ)

	Wisdom	Physical	Spiritual	Social
<b>Serve our Community</b>				
<b>Build the Body of Christ</b>				

15. (Ask) From all our sessions, what do you think the main things are that we want to make sure we consider when serving our community?

(Allow for some discussion. Encourage their responses. Then, add in the three sub-points as shown in diagram below: Focus on vulnerable, Acts of Love, Other initiatives)

16. (Say) In these trainings we have not focused a lot on the second area of building the Body of Christ. You have explored equipping individuals and families however, and talked about the different members of your church body and how important each and every person is.



17. (Write up the two sub-points: Equip individuals; Equip families)

	Wisdom	Physical	Spiritual	Social
<b>Serve our Community</b> - Focus on vulnerable - Acts of Love - Other initiatives				
<b>Build the Body of Christ</b> - Equip individuals - Equip families				

18. (Say) Now, I want you to take all the ideas for serving and ministry that you have generated amongst through the sessions here and with your church, and write or draw them up on this diagram.

*(Point out the columns)* Some of your ideas will fit under more than one area of development. That is OK. Just put it under the most obvious or main one. These areas are just included to remind us to think holistically.

*(Point out the 'spiritual' column)* In particular, it is a little false to have this 'spiritual' column in the context of these planning activities - as everything we do is both physical and 'spiritual' - we do everything to serve the Lord and give him honor and glory. This column is simply here to help us to consider all the different ways that we can serve others - some ways are less obvious than others so it is here as a reminder to think of activities that are often not seen.

*(Point out the rows)* In a similar way, anything we do to serve our community helps to build the body of Christ. And things we do to specifically equip individuals should help to serve our Community. These two rows are included only to help you think broadly and be specific with your planning.

19. (Ask) Is that clear? Any questions?  
 (Allow only a short time for questions)

20. (Say) Lets take 15 minutes to start this. You can finish it off after the session so there is no hurry. I will visit each group to see how you are going.

(Visit the groups and encourage them. Remind them of the following activities and encourage them to look back in their records for:

- a. Ideas of how to demonstrate love to vulnerable people
- b. List of Acts of love ideas
- c. Vision of the Kingdom of God within community
- d. Ideas of how to encourage and equip individuals in the body
- e. Ideas of how churches can equip and transform families
- f. (From Historical Timeline) Dreams of how to grow their church
- g. (From Fruits of Spirit Exercise) Ideas on how to grow the fruits of the spirit in the community

Also encourage them to consider how realistic the idea may be. It is good to have a mix of ideas that are easily achievable with their own resources (like their Acts of Love), and then some bigger ideas that are going to require them to trust God for his provision of resources.

21. (Towards the end of the groups working, write or draw up these activities on the chart you have drawn.)

	Wisdom	Physical	Spiritual	Social
<b>Serve our Community</b> - Focus on vulnerable - Acts of Love - Other initiatives	help orphan children with their homework	build well at school		help community leaders organize end of harvest celebration
<b>Build the Body of Christ</b> - Equip individuals - Equip families		identify families in church who need new roofs on houses	prayer meeting 1 / week for community projects	

**Experience 2 - 10-seed ranking - 20 minutes**

22. (After 10 minutes, ask them to finish and invite them back as a whole group) (Say) Once you have all your ministry ideas listed or drawn down, you and your church members need to discuss which are the most important ideas to start with first. To do this, you can do a preference ranking exercise.

Some of you may have done this before, but we will do it a little differently this time. The purpose is to get feedback from everyone in your church on which ideas they think are the most important to start with first.

23. (Take the chart that you have prepared down, and put it either on the ground or on a table where everyone can stand around and reach it.)

*(Say)* This is an example we can practice on.

*(Explain)* First, you want to make sure that everyone you are meeting with understands all the ideas.

You may want to draw or put something symbolic on the idea. For example:

*(Place these items as you go)*

I am going to put a water cup on the idea of organizing a well for the school, and an exercise book for writing on the idea of helping with homework, and a Bible on the prayer meeting ideas.

Then, when everyone understands the ideas, each person needs to be given 10 'seeds'. They can be beans, rice, leaves, sticks - anything that you can all have 10 of.

Those 10 seeds represent all the ideas that the person is interested or thinks are a good idea to start doing now.

Then, either one at a time or a few people at a time, people should be invited to place their seeds on as many activities as they feel the church should begin to act on.

24. (Demonstrate this) For example:

*(Place the seeds as an example as you talk)* If they really, really like only one activity, they could place all ten seeds on that one activity. But if they feel that several are very important, they can put a few seeds on each different idea to show that they are interested in several. The idea is not that you have to count numbers as much as it is an opportunity to encourage each person share their thoughts and ideas.

25. *(Ask)* I'd like you to pretend now that this example here is from your church and you have to vote. I'll give you 10 seeds each and we can practice.

*(Give each participant 10 seeds, and encourage them one at a time to 'vote' on your example chart. Immediately after each person places their seeds, ask them what the reason was that they placed their seeds where they did. Make it fun - it is an example only).*

26. (Once everyone has finished placing their seeds, ask some people to count and record the number of seeds on each idea)
27. (Ask) Is this activity clear to everyone? Are there any questions?  
(Allow time for questions.)
28. (Ask) Before we end - What do you think about this key message now? (Say the key message again)

### **Key Message Session 21**

*Jesus encourages us to plan before acting on our ideas.*

*(Prompt questions could include) Does your idea chart encourage you? Can you see how God can help us to organize and plan?*

### **Take-home task(s) - 10 minutes**

29. (Say) The take-home task for today is to complete your church idea chart with your church members, and then conduct this 10-seed exercise to hear their thoughts on what ideas the church should start first. As you do this, make sure that you include children, youth, women, the disabled - as many members of your church as possible.
30. (Ask) Is this clear? Are there any questions?  
(Allow time to clarify any questions)
31. (Say) You may also introduce these activities by sharing Jesus' saying in Luke 14 and discussing what it means like we have during this session today.
32. (Ask) Will each of your churches be able to do this by the next session?  
(Look for a verbal commitment from a representative from each church)
33. (Say) I look forward to hearing the results of these exercises.

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.  
Plan time at the end to:

- Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message
- Discuss the next meeting time and place
- Share the content of the next session
- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another

- Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer

## Session 22 - Our Action Plan 1

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation



- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack (to be able to post flipchart pages, so participants can see more than one page at a time)
- Facilitator Bible
- Large Copy of the HCA Institutional Venn Diagram (if part of CFCT)
- Flipchart paper for group work
- Markers for group work
- Annex 34 - 1 large template drawn on flipchart paper for use during lesson
- Annex 34 - 1 copy of the blank template and 1 Chronicles example for every participant (or 1 per group, if few people are literate)
- It is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 2.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time)

### Objectives

1. Reflected on their experience of developing the chart of ideas and doing the 10-seed ranking with their church members
2. Analyzed the story of David planning to build the temple of the Lord through the lens of the church planning outline
3. Discussed how to discern and participate in God's mission through their planning processes
4. Applied the first half of the planning outline to one of their ministry ideas
5. Discussed finding external resources and forming partnerships with other organizations
6. Committed to praying first, then completing the first half of the planning outline for up to three of their ministry ideas

### Key Message

The mission of the church is to discern and to participate in God's mission in the world.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1- 60 minutes

Take home task(s) - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

## Session Opening - 15 minutes

### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Review

1. (Ask) What was the key message from last week?

### Key Message Session 21

*Jesus encourages us to plan before acting on our ideas.*

2. (Ask) How did completing your chart of ideas and doing the preference ranking with your church members go? Were people encouraged to organize and plan ahead as our key message says?

(Allow some time to ask these questions: Observation questions include)

- a. Were you surprised by how many ideas you and your church members have had over the course of these sessions? In what way?
- b. How did people respond to the seed ranking exercise - how did it help or not help people to share their ideas?
- c. Did people have a similar sense of what they felt the church should plan to do, or were they quite different? In what way were they similar or different?

(Reflection questions)

- a. What did doing this exercise teach you about your church?
  - b. How does this make you feel about being able to build the Kingdom of God in this community?
  - c. What are some concerns you have about these activities?
3. (After several people have shared, congratulate the groups on their efforts and say) Your chart of ideas is very important and you can use it and update it as often as you like as you plan ahead for the future.

### Objective

4. (Say) Today, we are going to take 2 of the main ideas you have in your chart of ideas, and begin to develop an action plan for them.

## Activity 1- 60 minutes

### Experience - 25 minutes

5. (Say) First, let's turn to 1 Chronicles 22:1-19. I would like someone to read the entire passage for us. Listen carefully to how King David plans and prepares for how he wanted to serve the Lord.

22: <sup>1</sup> Then David said, "The house of the Lord God is to be here, and also the altar of burnt offering for Israel."

*Preparations for the Temple*

<sup>2</sup> So David gave orders to assemble the foreigners residing in Israel, and from among them he appointed stonecutters to prepare dressed stone for building the house of God.<sup>3</sup> He provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateways and for the fittings, and more bronze than could be weighed.<sup>4</sup> He also provided more cedar logs than could be counted, for the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought large numbers of them to David.

<sup>5</sup> David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the Lord should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. Therefore I will make preparations for it." So David made extensive preparations before his death.

<sup>6</sup> Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel.<sup>7</sup> David said to Solomon: "My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the Name of the Lord my God.<sup>8</sup> But this word of the Lord came to me: 'You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight.<sup>9</sup> But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, [a] and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign.<sup>10</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

<sup>11</sup> "Now, my son, the Lord be with you, and may you have success and build the house of the Lord your God, as he said you would.<sup>12</sup> May the Lord give you discretion and understanding when he puts you in command over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God.<sup>13</sup> Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

<sup>14</sup> "I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord a hundred thousand talents[b] of gold, a million talents[c] of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone. And you may add to them.<sup>15</sup> You have many workers: stonecutters, masons and carpenters, as well as those skilled in every kind of work<sup>16</sup> in gold and silver, bronze and iron—craftsmen beyond number. Now begin the work, and the Lord be with you."



<sup>17</sup> Then David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon. <sup>18</sup> He said to them, "Is not the LORD your God with you? And has he not granted you rest on every side? For he has given the inhabitants of the land into my hands, and the land is subject to the LORD and to his people. <sup>19</sup> Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God. Begin to build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the sacred articles belonging to God into the temple that will be built for the Name of the LORD."

1 Chronicles 22:1-19

6. (Say) Just like the story from Jesus in Luke 14 about preparing to build the tower, David shows us the importance of making good preparations before beginning our work to honor the Lord.

We are going to use this as our example for developing an action plan.

7. (Put up the flipchart of a blank plan outline you have prepared based on Annex 34. Say)

This is an outline that is good to use to help us plan ahead for the tasks that God has put on our hearts to do.

(If within CFCT, say) It is very similar to the outline the community leaders use for the community annual plan.



MAKE SURE YOU HAVE DRAWN UP THE ACTION PLAN OUTLINE ON A LARGE FLIPCHART BEFORE THE LESSON.

8. (Say) We are going to look at each column here by examining this example of David's planning in the scripture.

- a. (Ask) From this passage, what is the Goal or Solution that David has in mind? What did David have on his heart to do?

(Wait for participants to answer)

- i. Answer - Verse 7 - To build a temple to honor the Name of the Lord

(Write up the answer as shown in example below).

(Continue asking these questions, working across the table and filling it in once the participants have identified the answers. Encourage them to re-read the relevant portions of scripture to find the answers themselves)

- b. (Ask) What were some of the Activities that needed to be done?

- i. Answer: Vs 2-4, 14 - preparing the finished stone for building; preparing building materials
- c. (Ask) What were some of the Resources David identified he needed?
  - i. Answer: Vs 2-4, 14 -15 - available - David worked hard to provide the resources that he already had (see in table).
  - ii. Point out that he identified some that may still be needed. This goes in the Required column. (We are not told the source of where Solomon would get this from)
- d. (Ask) Who were the people involved?
  - i. What part did David play and why?
    - 1. Answer - Vs 5; 8-10 - Making preparations; The Lord instructed it to be so.
  - ii. Who is given overall responsibility during the construction phase?
    - 1. Answer - Vs 6 - Solomon
  - iii. What kinds of workers were involved?
    - 1. Answer - Vs 2, 15-16 - Foreigners; skilled craftsmen (stonemasons, carpenters, goldsmiths, silversmiths workers of bronze and iron)
  - iv. Who were also involved to give assistance?
    - 1. Answer - Vs 17 - all the leaders of Israel
- e. (Ask) When was the temple to be built?
  - i. Answer - Vs 7-10The Lord said to build it when Solomon reigns; when there is peace and quiet in the Land.
- f. (Ask) How will Solomon know that he has completed the goal? What is his measure of results?
  - i. Answer - Vs 19 - When building is complete; when the Ark of the Covenant and the holy vessels are brought into the Temple

**Example from 1 Chronicles 22:1-19**

Goal / Solution	Activities	Resources		Person(s) Responsible	Due Date?	Results Measurement
		Available	Required and Source			
<b>Build temple: honor Lord</b>	Preparing finished stone	Stone		Foreigners living in land	During Solomon's Reign	Complete building  Ark of covenant and Holy Vessels brought to temple.
	Preparation of building materials	Iron Bronze Cedar Logs Gold Silver		David		
	Constructio n of temple		Timber Stone	Solomon  Skilled Craftsmen  All leaders of Israel		

9. (Once the table is completed, say)  
Here is an example of a project that was thoroughly planned. The goal, the activities, the materials or resources, the workers, the supervisors, the helpers, the timing, and what result was expected. I will give you a copy of this to take home with you.

**Reflection - 10 minutes**

10. (Ask) What do you think of this plan outline? How do you feel about it, seeing this example up here? Do you think you can plan something in a similar way? (Encourage 1 or 2 people to share their feelings - maybe they are encouraged, or concerned by it. Thank them for sharing and affirm their feelings)
11. (Ask) Who was really in charge of all this planning for the building of the temple? (Allow a short time for discussion. See for example 1 Chronicles 22:10;

*<sup>10</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'*  
1 Chronicles 22:10

1 Chronicles 28:19;

*<sup>19</sup> "All this," David said, "I have in writing as a result of the Lord's hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan."*  
1 Chronicles 28:19

Answer - The Lord)

12. (Say) King David wanted to honor the Name of the Lord, and he followed the plans of the Lord to do so. That is what we want to do as we plan ahead - to honor the Lord, to participate in His plans to see His Kingdom come. Our key message for today is:

**Key Message Session 22**

*The mission of the church is to discern and to participate in God's mission in the world.*

13. (Write the key message up, then say) Lets say this out loud several times. Repeat slowly, out loud, 2 or 3 times.

14. *(Ask)* Does this make sense? How does this work together with last week's key message? What do you think this means for your chart of ideas and the main ideas you want to plan ahead with? Are you planning for your mission or for God's?  
(Allow some time for discussion on what this means for planning ahead.)

**Small group application - 15 minutes**

15. *(Say)* Now let's divide into our church groups. I want you to take the idea that was voted with the most seeds, and begin to plan it using this planning outline. It might be quite a simple idea or a big dream. That doesn't matter. In your groups, draw up this table and see if you can fill in these first two columns: the Goal of the idea or dream, and the activities or steps needed to complete the activity.
16. (Allow time to distribute materials and help them begin. Visit each group to check they understand the instructions.)

**Resourcing and Partnering application - 10 minutes**

17. *(After they have had some time to work, say)* Let us talk a little about the resource columns before we finish today.
18. *(Ask)* Do any of the ideas that your church has require resources that you don't currently have? For example, information you need, building materials, skills, money?  
(Allow for a short time of response)
19. *(Say)* We must trust the Lord to provide the things we need to serve. We can only serve others in His strength and by His provision. Often the Lord requires us to give sacrificially, from within our churches, to find those resources. But sometimes he provides those resources from others - just like in the story of the ladies from the Bible study in Uganda who wanted to build the market and were able to receive donated land, and then have nearby road workers to clear the land for them.
20. *(Ask)* Have you ever experienced working with another church or organization to get something done?  
(Allow a short time of discussion. Encourage them to include thinking of their denomination headquarters; their local community leaders; neighboring community churches; other NGOs etc)



21. (If conducting this as part of CFCT, you should have access to the results of the Holistic Community Appraisal Institutional Venn Diagram. Share it now and explain that this could be a good starting point to think about other ways you can connect and build partnerships within or outside of the community.)



22. (Ask) Why do you think forming partnerships or networks with other churches and organizations can sometimes be a good idea?

(Allow a short time for response. Share these answers if they are not brought up:

- a. Each group can bring different experiences to help the project
- b. It can help to build unity among the broader body of Christ or among the community or surrounding region
- c. It can be an opportunity to demonstrate the love Christ by working closely with others
- d. Working with people of similar interests and passion can be rewarding
- e. Sometimes you feel like you are small and isolated, even as a church group. It helps not to feel alone.
- f. Combining resources can help to get things done more effectively.)

### Take home task(s) - 10 minutes

23. (Say) Here is our key message for today again:

#### **Key Message Session 22**

*The mission of the church is to discern and to participate in God's mission in the world.*

24. (Say) Your first take-home task for this week is to pray. Spend time with your church leadership praying and ask the Lord to reveal which activities, of all the ones your church voted on with the seeds, are the ones He wants you to begin. Remember we learned that sometimes the best things to do to serve and build His Kingdom are often not the most logical.

25. (Say) As you talk and pray, consider these things:

- a. You have started planning one activity today - be prepared to not continue with it.
- b. Consider what you feel you and the rest of the church can realistically achieve in the next 12 months.
- c. Consider including at least one idea, if not more, that was a high priority for the children or youth of your church. Why? Because it demonstrates to the children that they are valued members of your church family, and will encourage them to serve in the other activities too.

26. (Say) Then, I want you to plan up to three ideas you feel you could act on in the next year using this planning tool. I want you to try and do the first 3 columns - the goal, the activities, and the resources. I want you to think about where and how you will get the resources you require.

27. *(Ask)* Is this clear? Can someone please repeat to me what the take-home tasks are?

(Allow for someone to repeat and others to give assistance. Makes sure you cover all 3 points again. Once everything is covered, hand out Annex 34 - the blank planning template and the example from 1 Chronicles.).

28. *(Ask)* Are all of you able to do this by next week?

(Look for a verbal commitment from each group. Allow more time for clarification)

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.

Plan time at the end to:

- Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message
- Discuss the next meeting time and place
- Share the content of the next session
- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another
- Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer

### **Sources**

P. Keys and L. Hunter (2012). FH CFCT Toolkit #5: Community Leaders Training Manual, A Toolkit for Implementing FH's Child-Focused Community Transformation (CFCT) Model, Washington, D.C.: Food for the Hungry

Carter, I. 2001, Building the capacity of local groups: A PILLARS Guide, Tearfund, Teddington.

## Session 23 - Our Church Plan 2

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack (to be able to post flipchart pages, so participants can see more than one page at a time)
- Facilitator Bible
- Annex 35 - The Church Plan Prompt Questions and Example: 1 copy per participant or group
- It is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 2.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time)

### Objectives

1. Discussed what committing their plans to the Lord means to them
2. Decided upon the people involved, timeframe and results measurement for their plans and ideas.
3. Reflected on the how the planning process has affected them as individuals and as a group
4. Prayed for each other and their plans
5. Committed to presenting the plans to their church and commencing their plans

### Key Message

The mission of the church is to discern and then participate in God's mission in the world.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 -60 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

Take-home Task(s) - 10 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone
- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer



- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Review

1. (Ask) How did you go finalizing which ideas you want to focus on with your plans?
  - a. Was it easy or difficult to decide which ideas to focus on? Why do you think that is the case?

(Encourage each group to respond)

2. (Ask) Who can remember the key message from last week?

### Key Message Session 22

*The mission of the church is to discern and to participate in God's mission in the world.*

3. (Say) We will keep this message as our key message for this week too, as we continue our plans.

### Objective

4. (Say) Today we are going to finish our church plans, focusing on the last three columns of the planning outline.

### Activity 1 -60 minutes

#### Introduction - 10 minutes

5. (Say) Before we break into our groups, let's be encouraged by this scripture.

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do,  
and he will establish your plans.  
Proverbs 16:3*

- Can someone look up and read Proverbs 16:3: (*Write the scripture reference up*)
6. (Ask) Lets say that together slowly:  
(Repeat the scripture out loud several times with the participants)
  7. (Ask) What does this mean to you?  
(Prompt questions include)
    - a. Does it remind you of any other scripture we have looked at together?
    - b. Does it mean that if we pray before we plan and act that our plans will always work? (Answer - no - it means we can trust the Lord to be

sovereign over all our actions. He is faithful and just, whether our circumstances work as we had planned or not.)

- c. How does this scripture encourage you about the plans you are working on now?
- d. How does this fit with our key message?

### **Key Message Session 22**

*The mission of the church is to discern and to participate in God's mission in the world.*

### **Experience: Small group planning work - 40 minutes**

8. (Say) Now let's break into our groups to work through and finish our plans. I will visit each of your groups to see how you are going and bring you some prompt questions and another example that may help.

(As you visit each group, ask the following questions to the individual groups as you check the work they have done until now)

- a. Was it easy to break down your goals into activities?
- b. Were you able to identify the resources you have and resources that you require for each activity?
- c. Was it difficult or easy to think of others you could partner with to serve your community? Why do you think that is the case?

(As you visit each group, hand out Annex 35 and plan to help them with their first activity to determine the people responsible, the due dates, and the results measurement. Point out the first row in Annex 35 which highlights the questions they need to ask themselves to be able to complete each column. For the results measurement, you can also help them by teaching them to ask this question:

**"We will know** when we have achieved [insert the goal or solution] **when we can see that** [\_\_\_\_\_] has changed, or happened, or been improved, or reduced"

IF THE CHURCH PLANS INVOLVE LARGER PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE DETAILED PROJECT PLANNING, CONSIDER CONDUCTING MODULE 4 FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADERS TRAINING WITH THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED. DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR MANAGER BEFORE THIS LESSON, AND THEN PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE MATERIAL HERE IF IT WILL HELP ANY GROUP THAT IS TRYING TO DO A MORE COMPLEX PROJECT.

### **Reflection - 10 minutes**

9. (After 40 minutes, invite the groups back together and encourage the work you have seen)

10. *(Then, ask)* How do you feel right now about this plan that you have created, or nearly finished creating? Are you excited? Daunted? Troubled? Please share what you are thinking.  
(Encourage 2-3 people who don't usually share to respond)
11. *(Ask)* How has using this planning outline been different to the planning you've done before? From your Acts of Love or other experiences you've had?  
Prompt questions could include:
  - a. Has it been easier or harder? Why do you think that is the case?
12. *(Say)* Planning like this takes practice and is hard to begin with. The more you plan, the more practice you will get and the easier it will become. Don't forget that Jesus does encourage us to plan so that we can successfully 'build our tower'.
13. *(Ask)* How has working on these plans affected your church leaders group? Would anyone like to share what you have learned as a group, by working together on these?
14. *(Ask)* Before we end, would each group like to share your plans so we can all pray for each other specifically around these planning ideas?  
(This is optional depending on the sense of unity and support amongst the group and between the churches)

### **Take-home Task(s) - 10 minutes**

15. *(Say)* The take-home task for this week is to finish your plan if you haven't yet, and then present them to your church and start acting on them!
16. *(Ask)* Are there any questions?  
(Allow time to clarify questions, address challenges within the planning outline. Consider talking through the example you handed out earlier within Annex 35 if you think the groups will benefit from another example)

### **Closing - 5 minutes**

Cover up, remove or turnaround the written key message so no one can see it.

Plan time at the end to:

- Ask if anyone can remember and tell you the key message
- Discuss the next meeting time and place
- Share the content of the next session
- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another
- Finally - close in prayer - as appropriate, invite a different person each week to close in prayer

## Session 24 - Evaluation

### Time

90 minutes

### Materials and Preparation

- Flipchart
- Markers
- Tape or tack (to be able to post flipchart pages, so participants can see more than one page at a time)
- Facilitator Bible
- Facilitator testimony prepared
- Annex 36 - evaluation questions - copies for every participant
- It is highly recommended each facilitator allow **approximately 2.5 hours** to be present in the place where the sessions meet (not including travel time)

### Objectives

1. Shared their churches response to their completed plans
2. Practiced project evaluation and feedback by providing feedback on the implementation of this training manual
3. Discussed why evaluation is important
4. Brainstormed how to find out the answers to the evaluation questions
5. Listened to a personal testimony from the facilitator
6. Committed to continuing to serve their community, share testimonies and regularly meet to plan and evaluate their church ministries.

### Key Message

We need to evaluate and report what we do. This helps us to learn, be faithful, encourage others, and give testimony to how God has used our efforts.

### Summary

Session Opening - 15 minutes

Activity 1 -60 minutes

Take-home task(s) - 10 minutes

Closing - 5 minutes

### Session Opening - 15 minutes

#### Introduction

Plan time to:

- Welcome everyone

- Take a record of attendance
- Open the session with Prayer
- Invite someone to lead the group in a Song of Praise or Worship

### Review

1. (Say) Who can remember the key message from the last two sessions?

### Key Message Session 22

*The mission of the church is to discern and to participate in God's mission in the world.*

2. (Ask) Do you feel like your church has been learning how to discern and then participate in God's mission?  
(Allow a short time for response)
3. (Ask) How did presenting your finished plans to your church go? What was everyone's response?  
(Allow some time for response)
4. (Ask) Have you been able to put any of your plans into action yet?  
(Allow a short time for response)

### Objective

5. (Say) This is our last session of this module! You have your church plans developed so today we will look briefly at how we can evaluate our plans as we carry them out and as we complete them.

### Activity 1 -60 minutes

#### Training evaluation practical exercise - 25 minutes

6. (Ask) Has anyone been involved in an 'evaluation' before? What does that word mean to you? How does it make you feel? For some people it can be a very negative and stressful word. What has been your experience of evaluation been?  
(Allow time for some people to share)
7. (Say) Evaluation can be a very good thing. There are five main questions to ask:
  - a. Did we do what we said we would do?
  - b. What went well? What didn't go well?
  - c. What improvements can we make?
  - d. Did we make a difference? Was the response as we intended? If not, why not?

e. Was God glorified?

These questions do not need to take long, but they are good to ask regularly and at the end of any project. Today we are going to learn to evaluate our plans by first evaluating this training course for me and for Food for the Hungry

8. *(Ask)* Please get into mixed groups of 3 or 4 people. I will give you a hand out that has these 5 questions for you to work through, and some paper to record any ideas you have. Please do not take very long. You will have 15 minutes total. After you have finished you will share your ideas with the group. Please also be honest - I want to learn from your feedback.

9. (Hand out the copies of these questions (Annex 36) to every participant)

Evaluation Questions

1. Did we do what we said we'd do?
2. What went well? What didn't go well?
3. What improvements can we make?
4. Did we make a difference? Was the response as we intended? Why or why not?
5. Was God glorified?

10. (While everyone is working, visit the groups to check that they understand the questions but do not stay long. Make sure they understand that the questions are applied to this course, so they would read, for example:

- f. Did this course do what I said it would do?
- g. What went well in the course? What didn't go well?
- h. What improvements can be made to the course for the future?
- i. Did the course make a difference?
- j. Was God glorified through this course?)

11. (After 15 minutes, invite everyone back together, and ask someone to write down peoples responses under each heading)

*(Ask)* Please share your ideas with one another. I will listen and learn from you as you share. We have 10 minutes to do this.

12. *(Once everyone has finished sharing their evaluation, say)* Thank you so much for that feed back. I am encouraged and have learned a lot! This is one of the main reasons we evaluate - it helps us to learn and grow.

**Why we evaluate - 10 minutes**

13. *(Ask)* Can anyone think of other reasons it is good to evaluate what we do?

Allow a short time to discuss. Highlight these reasons: to be able to change things if necessary; to learn; to celebrate; to be accountable)

14. (Say) In Mark 6:30, the disciples returned from being sent out to preach the Kingdom of God and reported everything to Jesus. It says:

<sup>30</sup> *The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.*  
Mark 6:30

(Ask) *Why do you think they returned and reported to him all they had done and taught?*

(Allow time for discussion. Look for these ideas - they were excited; they wanted to show Jesus that they had done what he had asked and been faithful; they wanted to share what they had learned)

15. (Say) It is similar for us today. I am going to report what I have personally learned here to my family, and to my colleagues and supervisor so that Food for the Hungry can learn too. I hope you will return to your churches and faithfully report on everything that you do too. It is another way to encourage your family - the body of Christ, and to keep people motivated to be involved.

16. (Say) This is our key message:

### **Key Message Session 24**

*We need to evaluate and report what we do. This helps us to learn, be faithful, encourage others, and give testimony to how God has used our efforts.*

(Write the key message up)

17. (Say) This is a longer key message. Lets repeat this several times together.  
*Repeat slowly, 3-4 times.*
18. (Ask) Does this make sense? What do you think about evaluation now? Is this different or similar to what you thought evaluation was before?  
(Allow some time for discussion, especially if participants previously had negative experiences with evaluation)

### **Application Exercise - 20 minutes**

19. (Say) I now want you to return to your groups and this time, take the questions and think about how you will get the answers for your church activities. For

example: How will you know if God has been glorified? How will you know if you did what you said you would do? Take 10 minutes now to think of ideas for this. You can use your Acts of Love as examples if you like.

20. (Allow ten minutes to talk about ideas. Visit each group again to check that they are understanding the activity)
21. (After 10 minutes, call everyone back together and conduct a brainstorm. Write their ideas for how they will find answers for each evaluation question up on a flipchart. Some examples for you to include in the brainstorm are indicated here:



Ideas for HOW we can find answers to the evaluation questions:

1. Did we do what we said we'd do?
  - a. Look at original plans and activities. Compare original plan to what happened (Could make a timeline - see next point)
  - b. Did we achieve the desired results as measured in the original activity plan? (The last column)
2. What went well, what didn't go well, why?
  - a. Mark out the events of the project on a timeline (like the church historical timeline) and mark which events in the project went well and which didn't. Discuss reasons why.
  - b. Meet individually with everyone involved to see what they thought went well and what didn't.
3. What improvements can we make?
  - a. Conduct a meeting with the people involved in the project and ask for their ideas.
  - b. Talk to people outside of the church or organization to listen to their observations and ideas.
4. Did we make a difference? Was the response as we intended? Why or why not?
  - a. Ask the people involved - those involved in serving and those being served - to talk about how they have experienced the project and what a difference it has made in their lives.
  - b. Look back at the picture that your church drew of what the Kingdom of God would look like in your community. Has anything changed? Why?
  - c. Re-conduct the Fruits of the Spirit exercise. Has anything changed? Why?
5. Was God glorified?
  - a. Ask and listen: Who is given the praise when people are sharing testimonies?
  - b. Ask yourself: Who are you saying is the source of your ideas, energy, resources, and results?

22. *(After 10 minutes, say)* This is a great list of ideas. It will be good to keep in mind as you meet to plan and evaluate your ideas. I suggest you meet at least monthly to do this.

**Facilitator Testimony - 5 minutes**

23. *(Say)* We have talked a lot over the modules about encouraging others to give their testimony or story as this helps them and others to praise God and glorifies God. I now want to share a testimony I have of working with this group.

FACILITATOR. PREPARE IN ADVANCE A SHORT TESTIMONY OF WHAT YOU HAVE PERSONALLY LEARNED THROUGH CONDUCTING THESE TRAINING SESSIONS. IT CAN BE SOMETHING THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE LORD THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE. IT CAN BE SOMETHING YOU'VE EXPERIENCED BY WORKING WITH THESE CHURCH LEADERS. ANYTHING THAT WILL ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPANTS TO PERSONALLY CONTINUE TO SERVE OTHERS AND BUILD THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

### Take-home task(s) - 10 minutes

24. (Ask) What is our final key message from today?

#### Key Message Session 24

*We need to evaluate and report what we do. This helps us to learn, be faithful, encourage others, and give testimony to how God has used our efforts.*

(To help prompt the participants' memory, say)

- a. What do we need to do? (Help them arrive at the answer - evaluate and report what we do)
- b. Why do we need to evaluate and report on what we do? (Answer - it helps us to learn, be faithful, encourage others, and gives testimony to God)

25. (Say) Your take-home tasks for this session are:

- c. To keep serving the community by acting on your plans and Acts of Love
- d. To regularly share testimonies of what the Lord has done
- e. To regularly meet and continue to update your idea charts, plans and evaluate as you move forward.

26. (Ask) How do you feel about these take-home tasks - are you excited?  
(Allow a short time for response.)

27. (Say) You already have the 5 questions you need to ask when you evaluate regularly. (Ask) Would you like to take also take copies of this list you have generated to help you remember how you can find the answers to these questions?  
(If they choose to, invite some willing people to take copies after you close.)

### Closing - 5 minutes

Plan time at the end to:

- Invite further questions
- Open the session to general discussion and prayer for one another
- Finally - close in celebratory prayer, giving thanks to the Lord for the participants and their willingness to participate in God's mission in the community.

**Sources**

Njoroge, F, Raistrick, T, Crooks, B, Mouradian, J (2009) *Umoja: Facilitator's Guide*, Tearfund, Teddington.

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**Annex 1: Session 1 - Manual Overview**

Module 1: Loved by God  
Loving God



Module 2: God's Story



Module 3: God's Church in  
Community



Module 4: God's Church in  
Action



**Annex 2: Session 1 - Card Sorting Card Templates**



### Annex 3: Session 2 - Small Group Activity Outlines

Small Group Activity:

Read Psalm 139:13-16.

Discuss these questions:

1. What do these verses tell us about the importance of humans?
2. Do you think that this verse only applies to some people or all people? Why, or why not?
3. For those of you who have children - how precious are your children to you?
4. How do you think God views every single person on this earth?

Small Group Activity:

Read Psalm 139:13-16.





Discuss these questions:

1. What do these verses tell us about the importance of humans?
2. Do you think that this verse only applies to some people or all people? Why, or why not?
3. For those of you who have children - how precious are your children to you?
4. How do you think God views every single person on this earth?

**Annex 4: Session 3 - The Four Areas of Jesus' Development Planner**

<b>The Four Areas of Jesus Development</b>				
<b>People</b>	<b>Wisdom</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>	<b>Social</b>
For myself				
In my family				
In my church				
In my community				

### Annex 5: Session 3: The Four Areas of Jesus' Development Planner Example

Context For Growth	Areas of Jesus' Growth			
	Wisdom	Physical	Spiritual	Social
 <b>Self</b>	Read a book or article about an area that I want to learn more	Take a long walk	Take a half day retreat to spend time in prayer	Send an encouraging note to a friend
 <b>Family</b>	Discuss applying two Proverbs with my family	Wash dishes after family meal	Lead my family in a daily devotion	Take spouse on a "date" (without the children)
 <b>Church</b>	Do Monday devotions on applying Sunday's sermon	Repair the walkway in front of the church	Pray each day for pastor and elders of the church	Invite <u>different</u> church members to our home for coffee
 <b>Community</b>	Discuss community problems with a community leader	Walk around neighborhood and pick up trash	Invite neighbors to a Christmas celebration at our home	Play soccer with neighborhood kids



## Annex 6: Session 4 - Church Group Activity Instructions

### Instructions

1. Read Matthew 25:31- 46
2. Draw up a large table like the one shown below.
3. Identify the six different things that the 'sheep' did.
4. Label each section with one of them.
5. Now, think about your church and the serving ministries it currently has towards both Christians and non-Christians.
6. Write or draw each ministry your church has within a category on your page. If your ministries do not fit under the six identified by Jesus, list it in the 7<sup>th</sup> "other" column.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7. Other

## Annex 7: Session 5 - “Salt” and “Light” group activity guides

### **“Light” Group Activity**

1. Read Matthew 5:14-16
2. Discuss:
  - Do we sometimes try to cover up the “light”?
  - How can we shine more brightly?
3. Choose a person to share a summary of your discussion with the larger group.

### **“Salt” Group Activity**

1. Read Matthew 5:13
2. Discuss:
  - Why does Jesus say that Christians are “the salt of the earth”?
  - How can we be like “Salt”?
  - In what ways could we lose our “Saltiness”?
3. Choose a person to share a summary of your discussion with the larger group.

## Annex 8: Session 5 - Scripture Call Out Verses

Matthew 22: 36-40

<sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ [b] <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Mark 12:28-31, 33.

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating.

Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

<sup>29</sup> “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

<sup>33</sup> To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Matthew 7:12

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Romans 13:9

<sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:14

<sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

### Annex 9: Session 5- Cross Activity Verses

1 John 5:3

<sup>3</sup> In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome...

James 1:27

<sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

1 John 3:17

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?

## Annex 10: Session 5- Take-home Task Instructions

### **Session 5: Take-home Task**

Study the story of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10: 30-37. Try and do this with as many members of your church as possible.

1. Gather a small group of older children or youth. Have them practice acting out the parts of the story while you read the story.

Parts might include: the Jewish man (victim), robbers, a priest, a Levite, a Samaritan, a Jew, an innkeeper.

2. Call together a larger group of people. Read the story, and have the children act the parts as practiced.

3. Then, ask everyone do discuss these questions:

- i. Which of the three men was a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?
- ii. What does this mean for us now, in this community? Who is our neighbor? And,
- iii. How can we show love to our neighbors now?

Allow everyone to respond and ask questions. Look for new ideas that you haven't heard before!

### **Session 5: Take-home Task**

Study the story of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10: 30-37. Try and do this with as many members of your church as possible.

1. Gather a small group of older children or youth. Have them practice acting out the parts of the story while you read the story.

Parts might include: the Jewish man (victim), robbers, a priest, a Levite, a Samaritan, a Jew, an innkeeper.

2. Call together a larger group of people. Read the story, and have the children act the parts as practiced.

3. Then, ask everyone do discuss these questions:

- i. Which of the three men was a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?
- ii. What does this mean for us now, in this community? Who is our neighbor? And,
- iii. How can we show love to our neighbors now?

Allow everyone to respond and ask questions. Look for new ideas that you haven't heard before!

## Annex 11: Session 6- River-crossing Roleplay/Story

### Objective

The church leaders understand that they are the owners of their own development.

### A Note to the Facilitator

This can be conducted as either a role-play with people acting out the story; a story where you can draw the scenario on a sheet of paper or ground as you go; or a drama acted out with puppets. You will need to decide how best to conduct this in your culture with your church leaders.

As this role-play will most likely have been conducted previously with all the community members, make sure you know how it was done previously, and then decide if it would be best to encourage the new church leaders training group to experience it in the same way, or a different way.

Feel free to insert local names for the people and communities mentioned in the story.

### The Story Contents

#### *Step One: Set the scene*

There is a river with an island in the middle that two people want to cross. On the first side of the river is Community A. People want to cross to Community B.

The two people who want to cross the river don't know how to swim, but there is a man by the river that does know how to swim.

This story is about the decisions that the two people who wanted to cross the river made.

#### *Step Two: Tell the story*

The first person that cannot swim, asks a person who can swim to help him across the river. The swimmer asks him, "Do you want me to teach you how to swim, or do you want me to just carry you across the river?"

"I am in a hurry," the man replies. "Just carry me across the river." So he gets on the back of the swimmer and is carried across. But halfway across the swimmer gets tired and returns to the first side of the bank, leaving the man on the island in the middle of the river.

A second man arrives at the side of the river and asks the swimmer to help him cross the river. Again the swimmer asks, "Do you want me to teach you how to swim or do you want me to carry you across the river?"

This man decides to learn how to swim. After some lessons both men begin to swim across the river. Again the swimmer gets tired and returns to the first side of the bank,

leaving the second man on the island. However, the second man has learned enough to continue and manages to swim on to the far bank.

The second man continues on with his journey. The first man is stranded in the middle of the river unable to continue across.

**Reflection Questions**

*Prompt questions include:*

1. Why did the first man refuse to learn how to swim? Does this happen in our community when people have the choice to learn something new?
2. Why did the second man decide that he wanted to learn how to swim?
3. Which man benefited the most? Why?
4. What does this mean for our community? As we develop our community, do we need to be carried or do we want to learn how to swim?

Finally, invite some people to share what they have learnt from the story overall.



## **Annex 12: Session 7- Summary of Key Messages**

Facilitator: you may want to write these out in large writing on a flipchart paper.

Add in when they are finalized.

## Annex 13: Session 7- Small Group Study Guides

### **Characteristic 3: Through God's Strength**

Read John 15:1-8

- How much can we do by ourselves?
- How do we bear much fruit?
- In John 15:5, the Bible says: "If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit." What do you think it means to *remain* in God?
- How do we trust in God's strength during these projects?

### **Characteristic 4: So that God is praised**

Read John 15:8

- What is the purpose of bearing much fruit?

Read Matthew 5:13-16

- Why do we do good deeds?
- What should our goal be when we do Acts of Love?

**Annex 14: Session 8- The Characteristics of an Act of Love Handout**

*On Following Page*

## ACTS OF LOVE

Acts of Love are small projects that are done by the church to demonstrate God's love to their community. They can be done to bless individuals, families, neighborhoods and/or the whole community.

### Characteristics of an Act of Love

#### 1. Done to Show God's Love

We need to be people that demonstrate our love to God by loving our neighbor. One of the key goals of an Act of Love is to show God's love to our community.

#### 2. Done in Obedience to God

We want to start with prayer, asking God what He wants us to do. Often the most impactful Acts of Love are not the things that make sense.

Reading the Bible to seek God's truth. Although it is good to know what other development projects community leaders are doing, it is important to ask God for direction and guidance in understanding the needs of our community too.

#### 3. Done through God's Strength

Helping people can be really hard. Only God can really bring the change we hope to see in our communities.

We need to ask the Lord to give us the strength to carry out the Act of Love project. As we seek God in prayer, listen and *remain* in Him, we can trust that in His time our project will bear good fruit.

#### 4. Done so that God is Glorified

It should be our desire to make sure that we are glorifying God at all times and doing things in such a way that honors Him.

The reality is that not every time we do an Act of Love will we have the opportunity to speak about God, but we can still demonstrate His love through good deeds.

We can ask these questions at the end of the Act of Love:

1. Were the people helped?
2. Was the project done in a loving way?
3. Was God praised?

#### 5. Small and Simple

It is important to start with small and simple Acts of Love (ideally completed within a day) so that:

- We are able to complete it.
- More people can get involved.
- We have the opportunity to build our skills.
- We can be quickly successful.

For the community members it is also better to do small Acts of Love frequently -once every week or two weeks - rather than one, long project over months. Doing frequent projects imprints in the minds of the community members that the church cares.

#### 6. Done Using Local Resources

It is a powerful demonstration of love.

This makes it very achievable.

There is a blessing in giving. God says he will bless in the same measure as we give, so that:

- We can be generous on every occasion
- God will be praised

It creates an exciting cycle that can grow as people can become even more generous and do even more projects.

We have skills; we have resources; we can be creative - we are made in God's image!

## 6 Characteristics of an Act of Love

1. To Show  
God's Love

2. In Obedience  
to God

3. Through  
God's Strength

4. So that God  
is Glorified

5. Small and  
Simple

6. Using Local  
Resources

### Annex 15: Session 8- Acts of Love Review Questions

*Questions to analyze your Acts of Love ideas:*

- 1) How does this activity help us show God's love in the community? What could be added or changed to this activity to better show God's love?
- 2) Is this a small and simple project that can be done in a day's time?
- 3) Are the resources needed to complete this project readily available in our community?
- 4) How could this activity change our community? Is this the type of change we want to see in our community? If not, how could this activity be altered to better impact our community?
- 5) Do we think God will be glorified by completing this activity?

**Annex 16: Session 9- Jigsaw puzzle game**



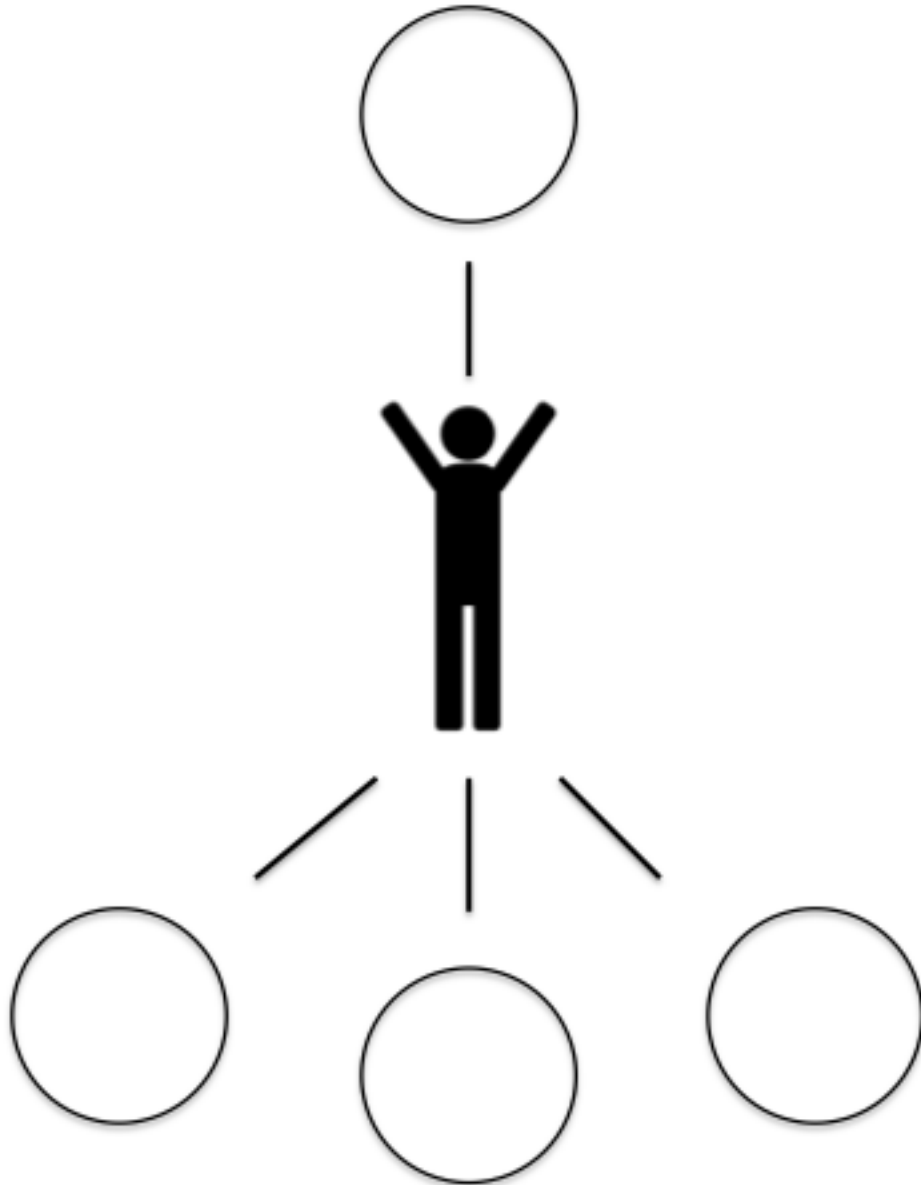
**Annex 17: Session 9- Act of Love Planning Outline**

**ACT OF LOVE PLANNING OUTLINE**

	WHAT	WHO RESPONSIBLE	TIME
RESOURCES			
PEOPLE INVOLVED			
BENEFICIARIES			
PERMISSION			
PRAYER			



**Annex 18: Session 10- The Four Relationships of Love Diagram**



**Annex 19: Session 11- Effect of sin on relationships – Verses**

People with God:  
Read Genesis 3:10-12; 21-24

People with Others:  
Read Genesis 3:11-12, 16

People with Creation:  
Read Genesis 3:17-19

People with themselves:  
Read Genesis 3:10

## **Annex 20: Session 12- The Act of Love Planning Overview**

### **Step 1: Prayer**

The first thing to do is to pray. Take time now to pray. Ask God to show you what you should do for your Act of Love.

### **Step 2: Selecting an Activity**

As a group, decide what you could do as an Act of Love.

For more ideas, look at the different ideas you developed for:

- how you can show God's value to people who are undervalued
- how you can help someone develop in the four areas of development
- how your church ministries could expand in acts of service

Together, agree on what you feel God is leading you to do.

Make sure it is something that you can do in just one or two days. If it isn't, then can you just do one or two steps?

### **Step 3: Decide What is Needed**

The next step is to start planning. First, decide what you need to do the project:

- what people are required,
- what materials,
- what permission, etc.

To help you think about this, use the planning outline attached. Once you have filled in the first column with everything that you will need, then you can decide who will be responsible and what date it needs to be completed by.

### **Step 4: Write the Plan**

Make sure your plan answers these questions. Make sure you have at least discussed these questions if it is not written. What are you going to do?

- What do you need to do it? Where will you get those things?
- Who are you going to help? Have you asked them?
- Who is going to participate in helping?
- What date are you going to do it?

### **Step 5: Pray**

Once you have finished preparing the plan, take time to pray again. Ask God to help you complete the project and to multiply the results. Pray that His name may be glorified. During the next week or two while you are preparing for your project, you should be praying that God would help you with the project.

### **Step 6: Do the Project**

The next step is to do the project that you planned. Start the day with prayer and dedicate your efforts to God. Remember that you are doing this project to demonstrate God's love to your community. Try to maintain an attitude that matches this goal.

### **Step 7: Evaluate and Report**

The final step is to report and evaluate. Why do we need to evaluate? Because it helps us to learn.

We can think about what we did well and what we can do to improve next time. It doesn't need to be a long process; you can just take a few minutes to discuss these questions:

- What went well?
- What didn't go well?
- What improvements could you make to the plan?

## Module 2, Annex 20: Session 12- The Act of Love Planning Overview

- Was the response as you intended? If not, why not?
- Was God glorified?

## Annex 21: Session 14- Parable Study

### **Parable Study**

Please read these parables about the Kingdom of God:

3. The Parable of the Mustard Seed - Matthew 13:31-32
4. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure - Matthew 13:44

Please read and discuss what these parables say to you about the Kingdom of God and what that might mean for your church and community.

### **Parable Study**

Please read these parables about the Kingdom of God:

3. The Parable of the Yeast - Matthew 13:33
4. The Parable of the Pearl - Matthew 13:45-46

Please read and discuss what these parables say to you about the Kingdom of God and what that might mean for your church and community.

## Annex 22: Session 14- Stories

### Story 1:

A man in India went to visit a village where he had been working. He asked the village women what their community would look like if Jesus was the leader of the village. Umrai, one of the more outspoken women, described a village where there was unity and solidarity. She knew Jesus was not honored by how her village was divided. Each family lived for itself. Because of her reply, the group formed a health committee and a self-help group. The fourteen women in the self-help group began to meet regularly with great enthusiasm. Group members collected small amounts of individual savings into a group account and began to solve community problems together. Umrai became the president of the committee and used her leadership gifts to plan and mobilize the village to help the community the way Jesus would if He were the leader.

### Story 2

Ladies from a Bible study in Uganda decided to serve their village as Jesus would serve. They carefully planned their first project or Act of Love - cleaning garbage around a local bar. Two of the women courageously entered the bar. (Usually, only women who were prostitutes entered a bar.) They asked permission to clean up the garbage. The surprised owners laughed, but agreed. The women mobilized the community and many people began volunteering. The group dug two pits—one for biodegradable garbage and the other for non-biodegradable materials. When bar patrons saw others cleaning up their trash, they helped. To the delight of the community, the bar owners continued to keep the area clean.

Encouraged, the women decided to build nine fuel-efficient stoves for local families and to provide water storage pots for the needy. Next, the Bible study group undertook a larger project—a community market. The village women typically walk many hours, carrying their vegetables and goods to far away markets. A nearby market would allow them to generate income while keeping them close to their families, community, and gardens. Land was donated, but it was too steep to build the market. The women from the Bible study prayed and the highway workers who were repairing a road nearby willingly came and bulldozed the market property at no cost. With God's help, the small group of rural Christian women discovered and collected resources, saved money, solved dilemmas, and built a community market. Their spiritual lives grew as they served others on behalf of Jesus.

## Annex 23: Session 14- Take home task

### **Our Community with Jesus as Leader**

God has given us an exciting vision; the vision of His Kingdom coming to earth. Can you imagine what it would be like to live in a community where everyone lived in complete obedience to God? Where everyone exhibited all the fruits of the spirit? Happy families, friendly neighbors, and helpful friends, all living in harmony with no arguing, fighting or dishonesty. Would you like to live in a community like that?

God wants us to be a part of building the Kingdom of God in our community! Although we know this will not be complete until Jesus returns, we can start now to work on this God-given vision.

With your church members, take time to discuss what the ideal community would be like. Specifically, ask them to think about spiritual, physical, social, and mental areas. Then, draw a picture of how you imagine your community would be with Jesus as Leader - with the Kingdom of God fully present in your community.

Some questions to help people think about this could be:

- What would happen if tomorrow morning starting at 6 AM everyone in the church started to act as God intends, fully displaying all the gifts of the spirit?
- What would happen to us, personally, if we fully obeyed God's intentions for our relationships, the care of our bodies, and our walk with Him?
- What would happen in our families if all members fully obeyed God's intentions for their relationships with one another?
- What would happen in our church and the other churches in our community if all the leaders and members truly loved each other, served each other, cared for the powerless and poor, and lived in unity?

You can also think about some of the first things you think Jesus would change if he were leader. For example:

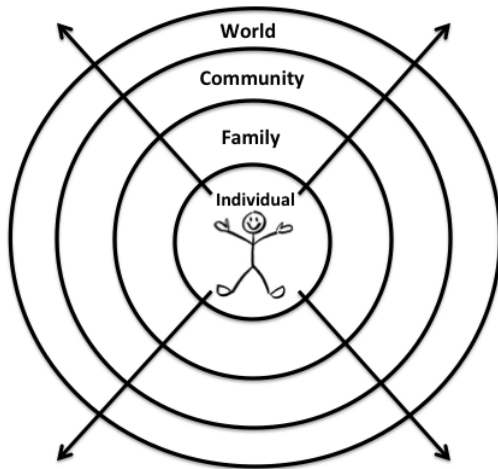
- What would Jesus do about widows and orphans?
- How would He strengthen families?
- How would He promote safe drinking water, adequate housing and food, health services, garbage and sewer systems, and decent roads?
- What would be done about education for children and adults?
- What would He do about alcoholism, drug abuse, gambling and other addictions?
- What would He do about spousal and child abuse?
- How would He improve relationships between people?

After you have completed your discussion and drawing, spend time together praying as Jesus instructed in Matthew 6:9-13.

## Annex 24: Session 15- How to be a Kingdom Builder

**God's plan is to use us to build His Kingdom. We need to be transformed first.**

**It Starts with Us**



### **How to be a Kingdom Builder**

#### **1. Start with yourself**

Ask these questions: Are you willing to be used by God? Are you willing to be obedient to God in every area of your life? What are one or two things that you could work on improving this week?

#### **2. Teach and encourage your family**

Encourage your family to do the same. As we read, we should be teaching our families at all times (Deut 6:7), no matter what we are doing. Look for ways to teach your family by your actions, by your words, and by your thoughts to help them start serving others as well.

#### **3. Pray - Ask God to use you to impact others**

Start praying and asking God to help you impact others. Look for opportunities. As you see people in need, ask God to show you how you can help those people. He will reveal to us at the right time the right way to help.

#### **4. Serve others**

Be involved in Acts of Love and find other ways to serve. Even if you feel like you are not able to do much, you should still use all the talents God has given you to serve. As you serve, you will start to grow and will find you are able to do more and more.



## **Annex 25: Session 15- Story of Lepcha and his family**

This is a true story of a man who moved with his family to an area where there were no Christians to share Christ. He wanted to see God's Kingdom built and people's lives restored in every area—spiritually, socially, mentally, and physically. He first learned and allowed God to transform him and his family and their habits, and then saw amazing transformation happen in the community.

### **ONE CHRISTIAN FAMILY MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

When the man and his family moved to the area, the whole community was Hindu. The village was located in the Himalayas 10,000 feet above sea level. A few kilometers away from the village was a tea plantation. This provided the main work for people in the village. However, the wages were so low that people struggled to survive even with a job.

The village had no latrines and consisted of about 25 rundown, poorly constructed, wood homes with tin roofs. Because it was located at such high elevation, it was very cold; however, children were barefoot and embodied signs of malnutrition.

Each house sat on a small plot of land. The cooking was done in a separate little, smoky, cook shack over an open fire while the pot balanced on three stones. There were a few chickens running in and out of houses and the compounds were dirty.

The nearest school was two kilometers away. It was too far for the children to walk daily and they had work to do around the home. Therefore, most of the children did not attend. Many adults could not read or write, causing them to be taken advantage of by those in other villages who could.

There were very few gardens because the nearest water was a reservoir two kilometers away. It was hard enough to bring water for drinking and washing, let alone for watering gardens. There once was a pipeline from this reservoir, but it no longer worked and the people hadn't done anything about getting it repaired. Rain was sporadic except for the one growing season when there was normally enough rain to get their main crop of rice. There was not enough room or time to raise vegetables. If they were lucky, they could harvest enough rice to get them through until the next harvest.

The people were Hindu and, therefore, worshipped many different gods. There are over one million gods that Hindus must appease and worship. The village had many little idols to the Hindu gods. Each time the villagers ate, they would drop some food on the ground for the wandering spirits.

There was a sense of defeat and hopelessness. The only hope was that maybe in the next life they would be reincarnated into a better situation. But there was also the chance that if they made the gods unhappy, they could be reincarnated as a rat or dog. They felt trapped with no way out or no way to better themselves.

Lepcha was an evangelist who moved to this area. He studied to learn the basics about helping others improve their health in a one-month course. Once he completed the course, he moved with his family to the village so they could live there and help their neighbors by doing and sharing what they had learned. They had a very clean compound with a cookhouse that had a raised fireplace, making cooking easier and using less firewood. They had a small coop to keep their chickens. They planted a small vegetable garden, which improved their children's nutrition. They had an outside latrine and their children didn't seem to have worms or diarrhea as often as others.

Lepcha made a rain collection jar, which they put under the gutters they affixed to their tin roof to collect water when the sporadic rains came. Others have copied this and when it rains they, too, have water.

They got the people in the community to work together to lay a pipeline from the reservoir to the village and now they have plenty of water, even enough to water their new vegetable gardens. Many people, after learning from Lepcha, have created chicken houses and built latrines that don't smell or have flies. When the Lepchas came, they began to teach many adults and children how to read and write. They started by teaching children and teenagers how to read.

Today, the village has their own school that goes through 4th grade. In addition, four years since the family moved there, the community now has a small church building because 23 of the 25 families have a personal relationship with Christ, all because one family was obedient and moved to share Christ with those who would listen.

The people have a sense of accomplishment and see that they can live a healthy life because one family cared enough to come share their life with others.

This same story is being told time after time in villages in northern India and eastern Nepal. Today, the same things are happening in 120 villages in the area. People's lives are changed physically. But the villages are also being changed spiritually as 107 home fellowships have started, with the largest twelve fellowships having 200 members.

When one Christian family, like the Lepchas, has a vision to see their community changed, mighty things can happen for God if they are first willing to allow God to transform them, and then seek His will and act on the vision that God has given them.

## **Annex 26: Session 17- Two stories for the facilitator to choose one**

### **Option 1: Kagishu**

Kagishu, a shantytown slum with homes made of discarded sheet metal and broken wood, had a fifteen member church. This church received an invitation to attend a wholistic ministry training conference and selected Meshack, a 21-year-old member, to attend. Meshack returned with a new vision: "I learned obeying Jesus is not optional!" So, Meshack, Dismus (an elder), the pastor, and his wife prayed, asking God for a project to demonstrate the love of God to their community. The answer came, and they felt led to begin a primary school for children in their church.

Immediately, they began talking to church members who had children but could not afford the small fee for public school. Several agreed to send their children to this new "school." With no training, Meshack, the pastor, and the pastor's wife began teaching thirteen children, ages six to twelve, in the one room church with no desks, books or equipment. The village people did not want to associate with the school and came at night to steal the building materials. Meshacks's first salary came during the seventh month—one US dollar paid by fees and offerings from children's parents.

Meschack and Dismus invited neighborhood children and the school grew. Soon there were forty-five students of varying ages in one room. A second teacher volunteered by the sixth month and a third by the eighth month. With 100 students, the teachers stood back to back in the middle of the room, facing their classes. Soon the neighbors moved out. As they did, the school gained more space. After two years, the school had two buildings and more than ten rooms that could also be used for church on Sunday. The next year, the church bought a piece of land in nearby Kawangware, purchased a permanent building, and relocated. In its sixth year, there were 17 paid teachers, 5 non-teaching staff, and 445 children.

This is only the beginning of the story for the community, the school, and the church. As a direct result of this effort, there is a new secondary school in a nearby village with ten staff and sixty students. Another church started a daycare for twenty children whose mothers must work. The original church fellowship grew into a congregation of sixty members and has planted another church of more than forty members. Each of these churches has produced two new churches in different areas.

Six years after the obedient sacrifice of a very small church and its members, there is a large visible effect in the communities and churches in this area. In fact, transformation in Kagishu was verified as community members suggested renaming the community from Kagishu (which means the knife) to Ruita (which means removing something dangerous.)

### **Discuss as a large group**

- What happened in this story?
- How big was the initial church?

- What was the impact of their actions? What changes did it make to the whole community?
- What are some things the churches in our community could do to serve our community and live according to God's intentions? (Write these ideas up)

**Option 2:**

In a certain village, it was tradition during harvest season to gather together and help in each other's fields. However, the person whose field was being harvested had to provide a large meal and drinks for each of the days the community members were helping. Unfortunately, the cost of the meal meant that often the landowner would make very little profit from their harvest.

The church decided as an act of love, they would help some of the poorest families in the community to harvest their land without requiring anything in the way of payment. Instead, they would bring their own food at lunchtime. As other community members started to see the way the church was serving the poor, they decided they should also help one another without requiring a large meal and drinks.

Today, everyone helps each other to harvest their crops. No one has to provide any alcohol or food. The profit the farmers make from their land has increased significantly and, as a result, they now have enough to eat for the whole year.

Discuss as a large group

- What did the church do to help in this community?
- What was the impact? What changes did it make to the whole community?
- What are some things the churches in our community could do to serve the community and live according to God's intentions? (Write these ideas up)

## **Annex 27: Session 17- Four ways to serve the Community**

### **Four ways the Church can serve the Community**

#### **1. Help people to live as God intends through service projects**

Our love for God and our neighbor causes us to serve. In the same way as Christ came to serve, the purpose of the church is to serve by helping people know and grow in Christ and by demonstrating His love to others. One example of this is your Acts of Love

#### **2. Teach people to live in obedience to God**

God made us and knows what is best for us. He has revealed how we should live in the Bible. We can teach others basic Bible principles. Even those who are not interested in Christianity may be interested in learning about health, how to have a strong marriage, or how to manage money wisely. These types of trainings help people to improve their lives as they live according to biblical principles and help to build good relationships between non-Christians and the church.

#### **3. Share the gospel**

Churches play an important role in helping people understand the gospel and nurturing new Christians.

#### **4. Support community leader and other church and organization initiatives that are in line with biblical principles**

Churches can play a unique role in building unity within the community by showing how different churches can work together toward initiatives that serve the community. Churches can also demonstrate their support of activities that are in line with biblical principles even though they are initiated by other organizations within or from without the community.

## Annex 28: Session 17- THT; Parable studies

### Take-home Task A

Please spend time reading, discussing and praying over these parables about the Kingdom of God.

1. The Parable of the Sower - Matthew 13:1-9;18-23  
Please develop a drama, song or picture from this parable that could be used to teach others. You will present this at the next session.
2. The Parable of the Mustard Seed - Matthew 13:31-32  
Please read and discuss what this parable means to you in your church and community today.
3. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure - Matthew 13:44  
Please read and discuss what this parable means to you in your church and community today.

### Take-home Task B

Please spend time reading, discussing and praying over these parables about the Kingdom of God.

1. The Parable of the Weeds - Matthew 13: 24-30; 36-4  
Please develop a drama, song or picture from this parable that could be used to teach others. You will present this at the next session.
2. The Parable of the Yeast - Matthew 13:33  
Please read and discuss what this parable means to you in your church and community today.
3. The Parable of the Pearl - Matthew 13:45-46  
Please read and discuss what this parable means to you in your church and community today.

**Annex 29: Session 18- Experience - Basic Formula Pieces**

**Our  
Weakness**



**GOD**

**Strength**

**Annex 30: Session 18- Experience - The Widow and 2 Coins Formula Pieces**

**Widow**

**2 Coins**



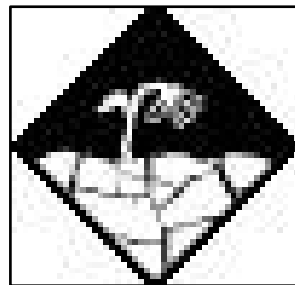
**Inspiration for  
20000 Years**

**Annex 31: Session 18- Reflection - Elijah and the Widow Formula Pieces**

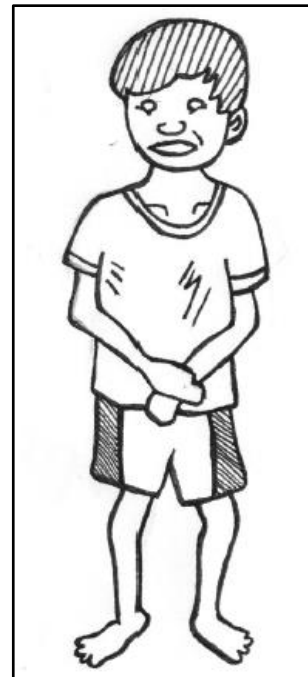
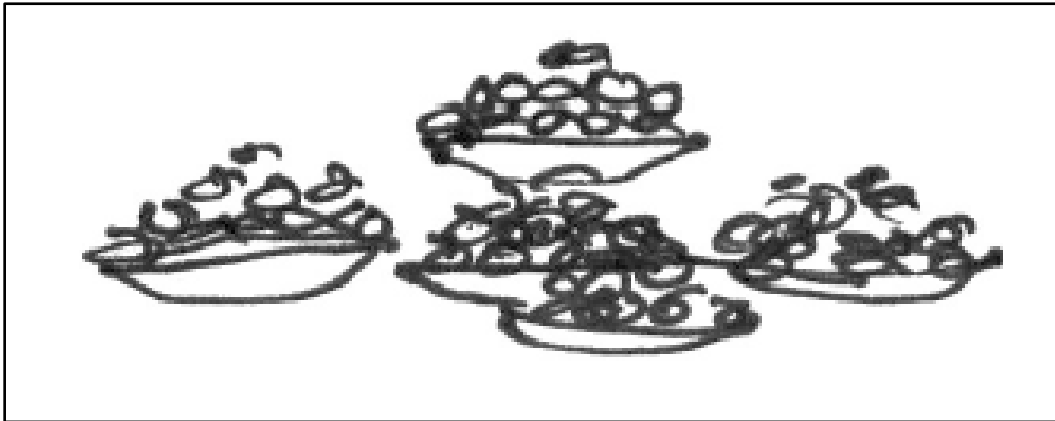
**Widow**

**Bread**

# Famine



**Food for  
3 people  
for 3  
years**





**Annex 32: Session 18- Application - Parable of the Talents Formula Pieces**

**Servant**

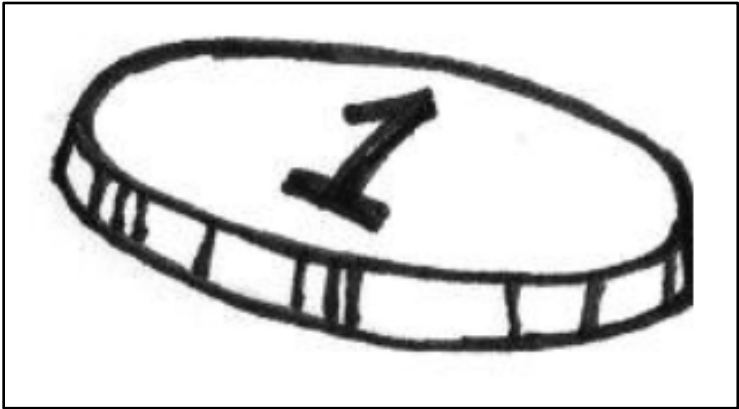
**1 Talent**

**No  
Investment**

0



0



**Servant  
thrown out  
of Kingdom**

### Annex 33: Session 18- Take Home Task Activity Sheet

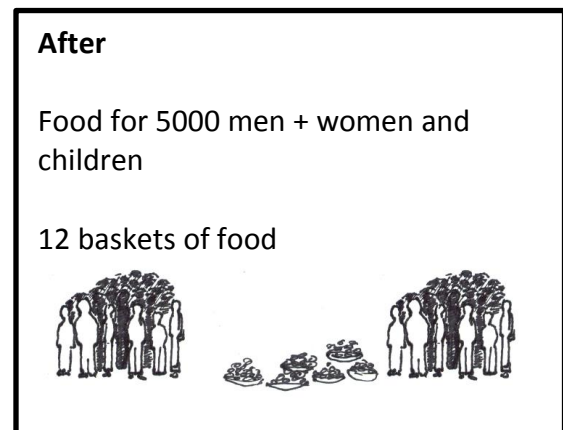
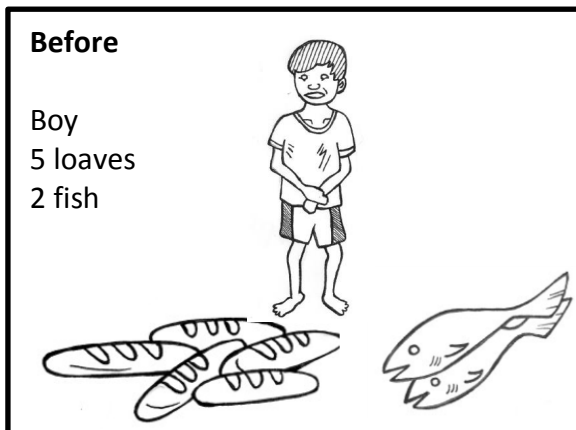
#### God builds his Kingdom by multiplying the gifts and talents we have

1. As a small group, read and discuss the application questions again:

1. How much have I been applying the principles of Kingdom Mathematics in my personal life?
2. How much are these principles being practiced in our church?
3. What changes can I make to apply these principles more in my life and in my church?

2. As a small group:

1. Read John 6:1-14, the story of Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand
2. Create something to represent the elements from the story that can be sorted into before and after piles. Some examples are below, but please create your own.
3. Talk through the discussion questions below
4. Prepare to conduct the reading of the story and sorting of the elements with your church members
5. Decide how best to conduct the discussion questions below with your church members



3. With your church members:

1. Have someone read John 6:1-14, or organize for a group to act out the story
2. Invite the group to sort the elements you have prepared into before and after piles
3. Work through these discussion questions:
  - a. What is the difference between these two piles? How do things change from pile one to pile two?
    - i. Answer - GOD
  - b. Did Jesus need the boy and his lunch? Was there another way that He could have fed the people?
  - c. Why did Jesus choose to take a little boy's only food?
  - d. What can we as a church learn from this story?Use the application questions above, too.

**Annex 34: Session 23- The Church Plan Template**

Goal / Solution	Activities	Resources		Person(s) Responsible	Due Date	Results Measurement
		Available	Required and Source			

Example from 1 Chronicles 22:1-19

Goal / Solution	Activities	Resources		Person(s) Responsible	Due Date	Results Measurement
		Available	Required and Source			
Build temple: honor the Lord	Preparing finished stone	Stone		Foreigners living in land		
	Preparation of building materials	Iron Bronze Cedar Logs Gold Silver		David		
	Construction of temple		Timber Stone	Solomon  Skilled Craftsmen  All leaders of Israel	During Solomon's Reign	Complete building  Ark of covenant and Holy Vessels brought to temple.

### Annex 35: Session 23- The Church Plan Prompt Questions and Example

Goal / Solution	Activities	Resources		Person(s) Responsible	Due Date	Results Measurement
		Available	Required and Source			
<b>What</b> do you want to see happen	<b>How</b> are you going to do it?	<b>What</b> resources are available through your church and community?	<b>What</b> resources do you need to source from outside the church or community? <b>Where</b> do you plan to source them?	<b>Who</b> is going to do it? <b>Who</b> is going to make sure it gets done?	<b>When</b> does this need to be completed?	<b>How</b> will we know when you have achieved it? Think of measures that look at Quality, Quantity &/or Time.
<i>Example: Establish a water committee</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- arrange for community members to nominate willing candidates</li> <li>- elect committee members</li> <li>- establish internal regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- people willing to serve</li> <li>- existing committee regulations to share</li> <li>- copy of government requirements for water committee structures</li> </ul>	nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Snr Pedro</li> <li>- Community vote; Snr Lopez to organize</li> <li>- New committee members (Snr Lopez to assist initially)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8 weeks (June 15)</li> <li>- 10 weeks (June 30)</li> <li>- 12 weeks (July 15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In 2 months, nominated candidates have accepted their names to be voted upon by community.</li> <li>- Committee members made public to all community members within 2.5 months.</li> <li>- Finalized committee regulations made public within 3 months.</li> </ul>



### Annex 36: Session 24- Evaluation Questions

#### Evaluation Questions

1. Did we do what we said we'd do?
2. What went well? What didn't go well?
3. What improvements can we make?
4. Did we make a difference? Was the response as we intended?  
Why or why not?
5. Was God glorified?

#### Evaluation Questions

1. Did we do what we said we'd do?
2. What went well? What didn't go well?
3. What improvements can we make?
4. Did we make a difference? Was the response as we intended?  
Why or why not?
5. Was God glorified?

**Annex 37: Church Leaders Training Register**

**Annex 38: Church Leaders Training Checklist**

**Annex 39: Quality Verification Checklist for Education Sessions**

**CHECKLIST FOR EDUCATION SESSIONS BY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS (HWs)**

Name of HW: \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Community: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**METHODS** **YES NO**

- |  |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Did the Health Worker (HW) seat people so that all could see each others' faces? .....          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Did the HW open the session in prayer (if appropriate in the local context)? .....              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Did the HW wear appropriate clothing? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Did the HW sit at the same level as the other participants? .....                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Did the HW use a participatory method? (game, skit, song, story, other -- SPECIFY: _____) ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Did the HW introduce the topic well (who s/he is, topic, time)? .....                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Did the HW ask questions to relate the topic to the participants' experiences? .....            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Did the HW use the brainstorming technique at appropriate moments? .....                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Did the HW speak loud enough that everyone could hear? .....                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0. Did the HW use proper eye contact with everyone? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1. Did the HW use changes in voice intonation (not monotone)? .....                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Did the HW speak slowly and clearly? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Did the HW move around the room without distracting the group? .....                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Did the HW use any props? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Did the HW demonstrate any skills that s/he was promoting? .....                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Did the HW verify that people understood the main points using open-ended questions? .....      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Did the HW summarize the essential points presented at the end? .....                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Did the HW follow the lesson plan in the curricula? .....                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**DISCUSSION**

- |   |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 19. Did the HW ask the participants lots of (non-rhetorical) questions? ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. Did the HW give participants adequate time to answer questions? .....     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



**Annex 40: Beneficiary Feedback Form**