

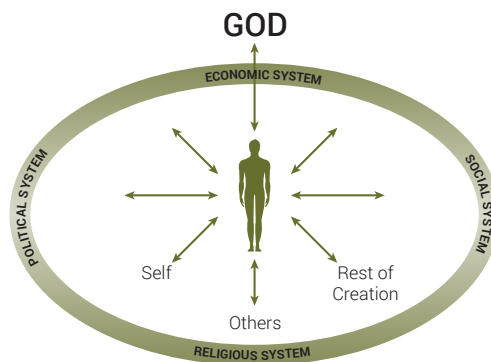
SESSION 2: GOD'S VIEW ON POVERTY

OVERVIEW:

This session explores God's view on poverty and who the poor are. It explores the concept of shalom and the way God intended the world to be. It looks at how poverty is not just a lack of material things and finances but how poverty, in its truest sense, stems from broken relationships with God, self, others, and creation. If this is the definition of poverty, then everyone on Earth is poor and in need of restoration.

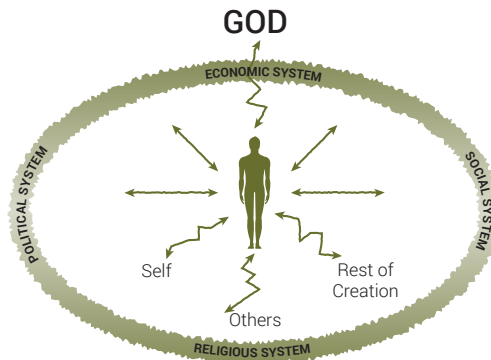
KEY POINTS:

- Shalom means more than peace. It is all relationships and all things working together for the good of everything.



Adapted from Bryant L. Myers, *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999), 27.

- The brokenness of these four relationships - with God, ourselves, others and creation - is the root of poverty & injustice.



Adapted from Bryant L. Myers, *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999), 27.

- These four relationships form the foundations of all of our systems.
- If the relationships are broken, the systems are also broken.
- Brokenness and lack of shalom in the world means that we are all unable to be exactly the way God created us to be.
- We all experience broken relationships = we are all poor.
- God wants to restore these relationships.

PREPARING FOR SESSION 2 CHECKLIST:

- Preview video ahead of time.
- Print off Field Guide handouts.
- Ensure you have at least one Bible per discussion group or email your participants and ask them to bring their Bibles to this session.
- Review Field Guide discussion questions and make notes on how you would answer them (you will find this helpful in getting discussions going).
- Tip: Always keep a copy of the Field Guide for yourself.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Field Guide handouts
- Bibles (at least one per discussion group)

FIELD GUIDE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*Note: There are **two** breaks for discussion during this video session. Discuss the questions below only when prompted.*

Look at Genesis 1:26-31 & 2:15-25:



How would you describe the original unimpaired condition of the world?



How do you define poverty?



What are the biggest issues of poverty and injustice you see in the world?



Second Discussion Break



What does poverty and injustice look like in each of these relational areas?



In your own context, what are some examples that you know of brokenness?



What relationships are involved?



Where is God pointing out brokenness in your own life?

HOW TO WRAP UP SESSION 2:

- Go over the *Field Guide's* Key Points.
- End in prayer. Ask God to show everyone where they are experiencing brokenness and poverty in their own lives, and to start bringing healing and restoration to those areas.
- *Optional: Play bloopers that follow the credits.*

SUGGESTED PROCESS:

- Welcome group back and open in prayer.
- Open up discussion/review what the group has learned so far.
- Tip: Review *Key Points* from Session One.
- Hand out *Field Guide* Session 2 to participants.
- CUE VIDEO.
- Break up into small groups and read Genesis 1:26 - 31 & Genesis 2:15 - 25. After they have finished reading they may dive into the discussion questions.
- *Field Guide Discussion Questions:* (10 minutes). See *Discussion Questions* above.
- CUE VIDEO.
- *Field Guide Discussion Questions:* (10 - 15 minutes). See *Discussion Questions* above.
- Wrap up Session 2. See *How to Wrap Up* above.

