

**TRUTH  
CENTERED  
TRANSFORMATION**

**MODULE 3**



**UNDERSTANDING  
GOD'S TRUTH & SATAN'S LIES  
SERMON MATERIALS**

# Lesson 1: Are We Being Transformed?

## Main Idea

As Christians, our lives should be changed as we walk in obedience to God.

## Introduction

Let me tell you some stories.

- Story 1: The Pastor's Wife - There was a pastor's wife who loved God. She wanted to serve her community. As a way to help her neighbours, she performed abortions. She thought, 'If a woman can't feed her 8 children, isn't aborting the 9th a way to help?'
- Story 2: A U.S. City - East St. Louis is a town in the United States. In 2019, about 25,000 people lived there. There were more than 50 churches. But that year, East St. Louis had the highest murder rate of any town or city in the United States.
- Story 3: River Communities - Along the Amazon River, there are many remote communities. Missionaries came to these areas. People were saved. The missionaries planted churches. Then they went to the next community. Now there are Christians all along the river, but all the villagers are still poor. Families barely have enough to eat. One way families get money is to rent out their 12 to 13-year-old daughters as prostitutes. The Christian fathers do this as well as the non-Christian fathers.
- These stories are surprising, even shocking. People who are Christians should not rent their daughters as prostitutes, perform abortions, or commit violent crimes.
- We know that God does not want things like this to happen. He cares about all people.

Let me tell you one more story.

- Story 4: A Mountain Village - There was a small village in the mountains. The weather determined if people had enough to eat. They lived in very basic housing with no latrines. They struggled year by year. Missionaries came to this area and told them about Christ. Many people became Christians. The missionaries helped the people plant churches. The people were happy because they knew that when they died, they would go to heaven. They looked forward to when they would meet their Saviour. The missionaries left the area. The church continued under the local leaders. Thirty years later, the church had grown. The people still met together! However, the village was exactly the same. They were still very poor. They still depended on the weather for enough food. There were still no latrines in their community. Very little had changed.
- This story does not seem as shocking as the others, because this situation is common.
  - But it should surprise us! When people repent from their sin and call Jesus their Saviour, their lives should change.
  - God wants our lives to be different on earth, not only in heaven.

## Key Ideas

### **We are saved by faith, and we obey out of gratitude.**

Ephesians 2:8-9 - *'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.'*

- We are not saved by anything we do. Our obedience is not what saves us. No one can do everything right. We all sin.
- God has made a way for us to be saved through Jesus' death on the cross. We are saved by believing in Jesus and committing to follow Him.

Imagine a friend got you a very expensive gift to show how special you are to them.

- You would be thankful and grateful. You might make an extra effort to please them.
- God has given us a much bigger gift. We can have a relationship with Him and talk to Him. We can have our sins forgiven and have eternal life with Him.
- After receiving this precious gift, we are grateful. We want to respond by obeying God. Obeying is a way that we show our love to God. It's not a way to be saved.

### **When we obey God's laws, our lives change for the better.**

- God created the earth. He knows how to live in it best. He did not give us the law to restrict us or make us unhappy. He loves us. He gave us the law that we might flourish.
- As we obey God's laws we will know His blessing.
- Let's look at how obeying God's laws helps us flourish.
  - Do not covet. (If we covet, our lives will not be happier. We will always be longing for something else. We will not be content with what God has given us.)
  - Do not murder. (If we murder, there will be chaos and a lack of trust between people. We won't be safe. We could be the next one to be murdered.)
  - Do not commit adultery. (Adultery breaks the trust in a marriage.)
  - Love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. (This makes our lives better. We can turn to God in times of difficulty. We know we are never alone because God loves us and is with us.)
  - Love your neighbour as yourself. (Imagine a community where everyone obeyed this law. There would be no fighting. People's needs would be met.)
- Just before Moses died, he gave a long speech to God's people. He reminded them of all God's laws. Then, he gave the people a choice.

Deuteronomy 30:15-19

*'See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship*

*them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live’.*

- The people have a choice between life and prosperity or death and destruction. (v.15)
- Loving God and obeying brings life and blessing. (v.16)
- Turning away from God and disobeying brings death and curses. (v.17-18)
- God wants us to choose life and blessings. (v.19)
- As we obey God’s laws, we will see our lives improve. This is not just in heaven, but now, on earth. (*Pastor: Deuteronomy 28:1-19 gives some specific ways this happens.*)
- We need to understand these laws. We need to start applying them to our lives. As we do, God will bless our lives.

### **Story Illustration: Transformation in Fiji**

Fiji is a nation made up of 322 beautiful islands. Most of the income in the nation comes from tourists. In May 2000, there was a coup. Even after the coup ended, the country was still in chaos. Tourists stopped coming. The people were poor.

In July 2001, Christians all over the country joined together for prayer and Bible teaching. At the end, the acting Prime Minister prayed. He asked God to forgive him and to guide him so he could honour God. Soon after that, he became the Prime Minister of Fiji. He looked for other godly leaders to serve with him.

In one village the people wanted to follow Jesus. They stopped practising witchcraft. They destroyed their objects of magic. The head drug dealer became a Christian. He stopped selling drugs. The village leaders started to meet together to pray. They asked for forgiveness. They asked God to take over their community. And God heard their prayers! People that were often sick stopped getting sick. Trees that had no fruit began to grow fruit. In the past there were only a few fish in the sea near the village. Now the sea was filled with fish.

In the cities, there were also changes. Churches prayed for their cities. They asked forgiveness for the way that they had treated each other before. There was a reduction in crime, poverty, beggars, and street children. Children started attending school. Tourists returned. The economy improved. Even the people who had started the coup and were in prison became Christians. Sometimes the jails were filled with songs!

2 Chronicles 7:14 - *‘if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land’.*

- The people in Fiji turned to God, just like in this verse.
  - Churches worked and prayed together.
  - People asked for forgiveness for things done in the past.
  - They threw away things related to witchcraft.

- When this happened, God healed their land in miraculous ways.
  - The land grew more food, and the sea had fish.
  - There was less crime and fewer street children and beggars.
  - Children went to school.
  - Tourists returned, and the economy improved.
- God can do this in our community.
  - We need to humble ourselves, repent, and seek Him.

### **Conclusion and Application**

- Jesus died on the cross for us. By believing in God and following Him, we become Christians.
- We obey God out of gratitude and love.
- As we continue to follow God, obeying Him, our lives should change. We shouldn't remain in poverty and brokenness.
- God has promised to bless us, but only as we obey Him. That doesn't mean we will never face problems. We live in a sinful, broken world. But overall, our lives and communities should be changing.

***Pastor:*** Give an example of how your community has improved as people have obeyed God's laws.

# Lesson 2: We Are to Be Stewards of Creation

## **Main Ideas**

God told people to rule over, work, and take care of creation. This is having a right relationship with creation. We are to use our creativity to do this.

## **Review of Lesson 1**

- We are not saved by obeying God, but by faith in Jesus. But as we continue to follow God, obeying Him, our lives should change. We shouldn't remain in poverty and brokenness.

## **Introduction**

The Pokomchi Indians are some of the poorest people in Guatemala. Many years ago, missionaries came to evangelise and plant churches. Many Pokomchi accepted Christ, but their communities remained desperately poor. A common problem among the Pokomchi was that rats would eat crops before the children could be fed. Arturo, a young pastor, came to work among the Pokomchi. One day, Arturo asked the farmers, 'Who is smarter, you or the rats?' The farmers laughed and said, 'The rats.' Arturo asked, 'Do you rule over the rats, or do the rats rule over your lives?' The farmers agreed that the rats ruled over them and their families. The rats took food. Nobody stopped them. The rats, not the people, decided what the rats could eat.

Then, Arturo showed them that the Bible said men and women are to rule over creation. They should not let creation rule over them. He explained that God wants us to apply the principles and laws in the Bible to our everyday lives. The Pokomchi decided they needed to act according to the Bible. They needed to start to rule over the rats. They built storage facilities that kept the rats out of their food. Once the food was protected from the rats, they started to have enough for their families.

Let's look carefully at what the Bible says about this.

## **Key Ideas**

### **God wants us to steward His creation.**

Psalm 24:1 - *'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it; the world, and all who live in it.'*

- The earth belongs to God.

Genesis 1:26-28

*'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, 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. 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 2:15 - *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it'.*

- In these verses, God tells people to steward, to be in charge of His creation.
  - We are supposed to rule over it, take care of it, and work it.
- To care for creation means to protect it, and make sure it isn't broken or damaged.
  - We should not do anything that will damage creation. For example, we should not litter or cut down too many trees, which can cause landslides.
- To work God's creation means we should make it produce something good.
  - We should work so that creation provides us with food and beauty and meets other needs, like clothing or shelter.
- To rule creation means we have control over it.
  - The Pokomchi ruled the rats by building storage places the rats couldn't get into.
  - Building a bridge is another example. Without the bridge, the river determines where we can go. With a bridge or a boat, we can decide where we want to go.
  - It is not God's desire that we feel like we are controlled by creation. We need to ask God to give us creative ways to rule over creation.

When we rule, work, and take care of creation we are obeying God's command. We are stewarding His creation. We have a right relationship with creation. This brings flourishing and blessings to people's lives.

### **We should think of creative ways to steward God's creation.**

Let's think about how we can help our community steward God's creation better.

**Pastor:** *Choose a few of the ideas below that you think will be helpful in your community. Talk about them specifically. (For example, are there ways that your community is polluting water?)*

- Take care of God's creation.
  - Care for the animals we have. Make sure they are fed and healthy.
  - Keep creation clean. Put litter in bins. Keep water clean and not polluted. Do not cut down too many trees. (This causes erosion and less protection from weather.)
- Work creation, so it produces more good things.
  - Farm. Grow vegetables, grains, nuts or fruit. Dig wells so we have fresh, clean water. Use irrigation or natural fertilisers to make land more productive. (You will learn about this later in TCT.) Think about how to use ALL the land. (Plant a small garden for vegetables for each family, plant trees.)
- Rule creation, so that we are in control, not ruled by animals, diseases, and weather.
  - Many animals carry diseases (flies, rats, mosquitos, even farm animals). Cover food so flies can't get to it. Make traps for rats. Put animals in pens so they are

not wandering around leaving poop everywhere. Clean water by boiling or filtering. (We will also learn about this later in TCT.) Build strong houses so we aren't controlled by sun/rain. Build bridges. Dig wells so we aren't dependent on rain.

### **Conclusion and Application**

- God created people to rule over, work, and take care of creation. This is having a right relationship with creation. We are to use our creativity to do this.
- At the end of the service, get into groups of men, women, and youth, and see if you can think of 2-3 ideas for Acts of Love that our church could do to help our community steward God's creation better. Each group should decide on one, and tell the church leaders. The leaders will pray about it, choose one idea, and make a plan for an Act of Love.

# Lesson 3: We Can Change the Future

## Main Ideas

God has a purpose for our lives. He has good plans for people. He wants us to grow and our lives to improve. God is looking for people who will bring change for others (like Mama Nicole).

## Review of Lessons 1 and 2

- We are not saved by obeying God, but by faith in Jesus. But as we continue to follow God, obeying Him, our lives should change.
- One way our lives should change is that we should be stewards of God's creation. We should rule over, work, and take care of creation.

## Introduction

Imagine there is a family who is very poor. (*Pastor: hold up a picture of this family, found at the end of the lesson.*) Their house is falling apart. There is trash all around their house. The father spends most of his money buying alcohol to drink. The mother is pregnant, even though she already has four other children. The children never get enough to eat. Their clothes are old and torn. They are often sick.

- This family's life has probably not changed very much in the past year.
- The family probably doesn't expect their life to change much in the next few years.

In Lesson One, we read about how obeying God and following His ways brings blessing. But turning away and disobeying brings destruction.

Jeremiah 29:11 - *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".'*

- This verse was given to the people when they were in exile because of their sins.
- Even though they sinned again and again, God had good plans for them.
- God has a good plan for people.

Think again about the poor family we described.

- It is easy to think that their lives are too broken to change.
- But hope is still available for the family. God wants their lives to change for the better.

## Key Ideas

**God is looking for people who will respond to His call to bring change.**

When we are faced with situations like this family's, or a whole community with problems, it is easy to say, 'What can one person do?', or 'There is nothing I can do to change this situation'. Let's look at what the bible says about what one person can do to bring change.

Jeremiah 5:1

*'Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city'.*

- If He found ONE person who would obey His laws, God would forgive the city.

Ezekiel 22:30

*'I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before Me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one'.*

- If he found ONE person who would obey, God would not destroy the land.
- According to these verses, even one person who faithfully follows God can save a whole city from destruction. They can save the land from being destroyed.
- Anyone can be used by God, whether a king or a servant, whether rich or poor.
- God can use YOU to bring change.

## **We can be the person who responds to God's call to bring change.**

### **Story Illustration: Mama Nicole**

Here is a story of someone who responded to God's call to bring change.

After participating in TCT training, Mama Nicole felt led to help widows and their children in her area. In this community, widows have few options for earning income. They are often exploited by others. Many are suicidal. Some prostitute themselves just to eat. As Mama Nicole visited these women, she realised that most of the children were not attending school. They could not afford the school fees. She found 10 widows who were the most needy. They had 40 children between them.

Mama Nicole taught these widows to make soap. Her church loaned the women money to buy soap-making supplies. This helped all the widows earn enough to pay for food. But this wasn't enough for Mama Nicole. She wanted the children to go to school. She started a plant nursery. She planted seeds and tended them until they were saplings that could be sold. She employed a deaf and mute man at the nursery. She hired some youth from the church. She trained these youth to grow bananas. They grew 50 banana trees on the church's property. The nursery and banana tree plantation made enough profit to pay school fees for all 40 children of the widows.

We can be like Mama Nicole.

- Have a heart to help people. Be willing to sacrifice time to do so.
- Take time to build relationships with people who need help. Visit on a regular basis to build trust with people.
- Listen to people. If people feel cared for, they are more likely to listen to advice. If people feel judged, they won't want to share with you or listen.

- Bring ideas. Often people feel like they can't change their situation. They need someone to give them ideas about what they can do to change their life.
- Be willing to work. Mama Nicole didn't just tell the widows what to do. She helped them get started. She worked alongside them.
- Start small. Making soap didn't fix every problem. But it was the beginning of great changes. Give easy first steps. Once people have been successful at a small thing, they will be more willing to try something bigger.
- Change usually takes time. We should not expect big changes quickly.

## **Conclusion and Application**

It is easy to believe that our past will determine our future. But God has a plan for your life. He wants you to use what He has given you to bring change. Each of you could bring change to any situation you face. God may call you to bring change in your family, your church, your community, your province, or even your country.

### **Invitation to Begin a Helping Group**

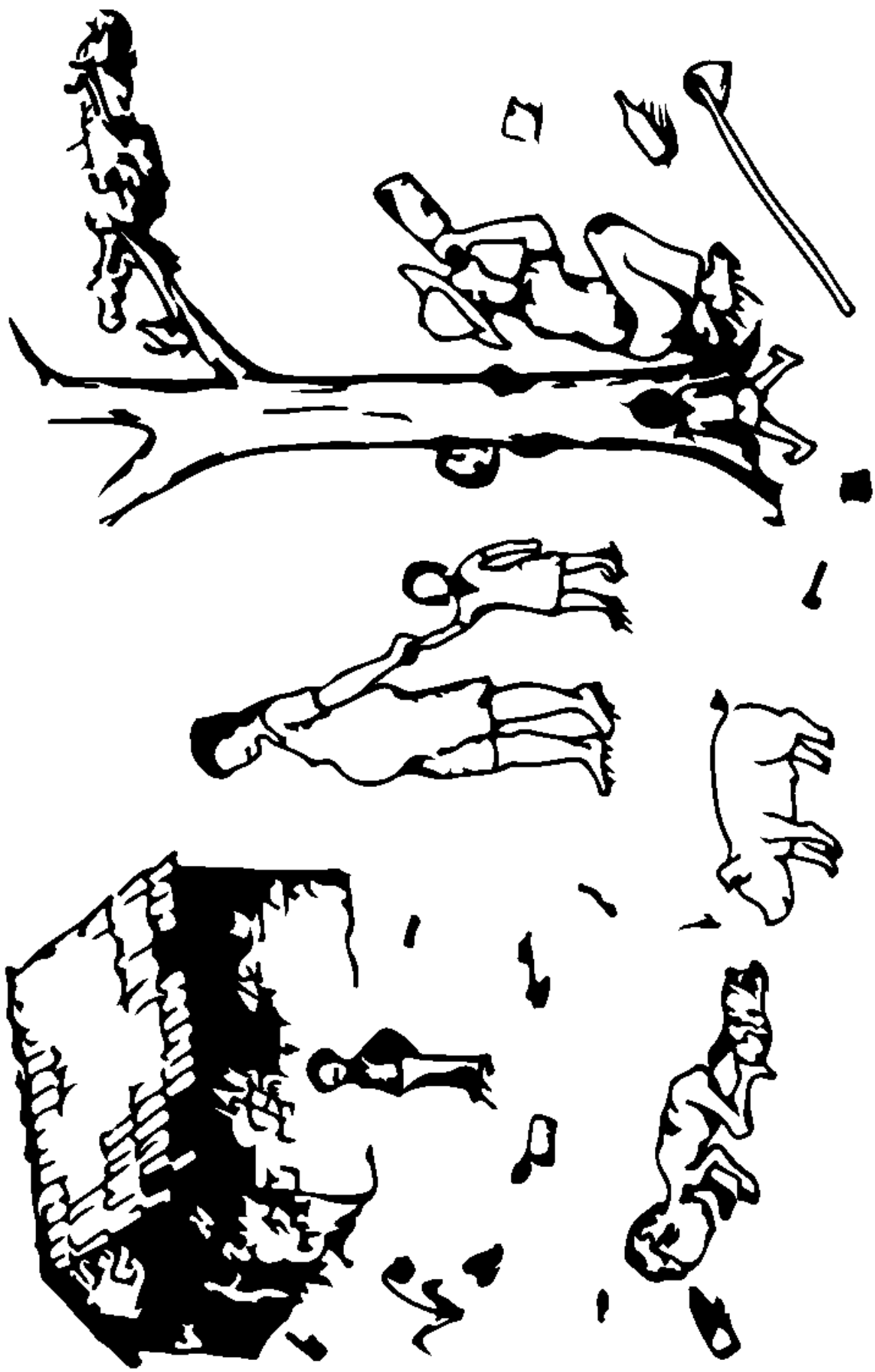
***Pastor:** Invite people to think about forming a helping group. Explain that sometimes it is difficult to think of how to help people. A helping group is a few people who meet once a week because they have the desire to help people. They pray together for the people they are helping. They share ideas to help to bring change. Together the group will be able to think of more ideas than just one person could.*

Silently think and pray about two things:

- Would you like to be part of a helping group?
- Who is someone you could help? What is something you could do?

***Pastor:** Once the congregation has had time to pray, ask those who are interested in being in a helping group to meet with you after church. Help them to divide into groups of 4-8 people and encourage them to:*

- *Plan when they will meet.*
- *At the first meeting*
  - *Choose someone to help.*
  - *Plan to visit those people.*
  - *Pray for each other—that God will help the people you visit.*
- *At the second meeting*
  - *Report how the visit went and the needs you saw.*
  - *As a group, ask God for wisdom and use the creativity that He has given you to think of possible ways to help. Listen for a while.*
  - *Talk about possible ways to help.*
  - *Choose one small area to start helping with. Don't try to do everything at once.*



# Lesson 4: God Has Given Us So Much

## Main Idea

God has given us many resources. When we recognise them, we can begin to use them to serve God and others.

## Review of Lesson 3

- God has a purpose for our lives. He wants us to grow and our lives to improve. God is looking for people who will bring change for others (like Mama Nicole).

## Introduction

A believer is having his devotional time. He reads Matthew 25:14-30. In this passage, Jesus tells the story of a master who gives his 3 servants different amounts of money to use for him. The master expects them to use it to make more. When the servant with only a little money hides it and then returns it, the master is angry. Jesus says the master is God, and we are the servants.

The believer thinks: 'I wish I could be like the servant who was given lots of money so I could do great things for God! But I feel sorry for the servant that was given only a little. I think the master was too hard on him! I don't have any talent or special gifts. And I am so poor! I cannot help anyone else because I have so many needs. Lord, please give me something to use...'

- I'm sure we have met people like this. They feel like God is unfair, or too hard on them. They feel like they have nothing to give.
- This is not true. If we look at the story carefully, we will see that God has given everyone different gifts. He expects us to use and multiply them.

## Key Ideas

**God has given everyone different gifts and expects us to use them.**

Matthew 25:14-30

*Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of*

*gold; see, I have gained two more.’ His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth’.*

- Two servants used what they were given and multiplied it.
- One servant did NOT use it. He made up excuses because he was wicked and lazy.
- The master said the same thing to the servants who had 10 bags and the servant who had 5 bags. They got the same reward, even though they made different amounts.
- What mattered was not the amount, but the faithfulness of the servants.
- The master did NOT accept the excuse of the servant who hid his bag of gold.
- If the servant with only one bag of gold had made just one more, he would have been given the same reward.

Many Christians don’t use the gifts and resources God has given them to serve Him. Here are some common excuses that people give.

<p><b>Old Person:</b> ‘I wish I were still a young man. Then I would have the energy to serve the Lord with my talents. Now I am too old and tired’.</p> <p><b>Young Person:</b> ‘I wish I were older. Then I would have more influence, and I could lead people to serve the Lord with my talents. It’s too hard right now because I’m so young’.</p> <p><b>Business Person:</b> ‘I wish I had more time. I’m so busy with my work that I never have time to help other people’.</p> <p><b>Uneducated Person:</b> ‘I wish I were more educated. I don’t know anything about theology. Only the pastor can really help others because he went to Bible school and has training’.</p> <p><b>Poor Person:</b> ‘I wish I had more money. Then I could really serve the Lord. I’m too poor right now to help anyone besides myself’.</p>
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- Have you heard other Christians use any of these excuses? Have you used them?
- God did not accept the excuse of the servant with one bag of gold. Our excuses are not acceptable to God either.
- God expects us to use the gifts and talents He has given us no matter how big or small.

**We need to see all that God has given us.**

One of the best ways to get past our excuses is to see all that God has given us. Here are some examples of resources God has given to people.

**Pastor:** Give only 1-2 examples for each category, then invite the congregation to call out other things God has given them in these categories. If they can't think of anything else, you can suggest the other examples.

1. **Natural Gifts - Inside us** - all the gifts and abilities that God has given us.  
(Examples: Imagination. The ability to speak, listen, see. The ability to make decisions, cook food, make fire, build a house, or farm.)
  2. **Natural Gifts - Outside us** - all the resources that God has given you in your community.  
(Examples: water, land, sun, clothes, houses, medicine, plants, animals, schools.)
  3. **Spiritual Gifts** - all of the things that we have because of our relationship with God.  
(Examples: God's promises, the Bible, miracles, prayer, the church, love, God's power.)
- God has given us so much. Rather than thinking about what we don't have, we need to use what God has already given us.
  - Remember the parable of the servants with the bags of gold. When we use what God has given us, He is pleased. He gives us even more.

#### Story Illustration: Japanese Farmers<sup>1</sup>

In Constanza, an island in the Caribbean, the land is fertile. There is plenty of water. The climate is good for growing food. But the native people were very poor. After World War 2, some Japanese people moved to this area. When they arrived, they had nothing but the clothes they were wearing. They lived amongst the local people. They farmed together with them. Both groups were poor and struggling to survive. After 20 years, the Japanese farmers had become rich. They had large, beautiful houses. The local farmers were still poor. They were still struggling to grow enough to eat.

This is a true story!

- Both groups had exactly the same outside resources. It was the same land. The only difference was in their ideas.
- The Japanese believed you should always work hard and never give up.
- The local farmers believed that it was their destiny to be poor. They believed their lives would never change. They didn't try to overcome difficulties.
- The way the people thought was more important to their future than their outside resources. The resources we have inside us are often more important than outside resources.
- Spiritual resources are even more important! God can multiply both our inside and outside natural resources.
- We must use God's word to shape our thinking and beliefs.

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<sup>1</sup>From Discipling Nations by Darrow Miller

### **Conclusion and Application**

God has given us many resources. When we recognise them, we can begin to use them to serve God and others.

Think and pray about what God has given you. Pray and ask God to help you see all the resources He has given you and to help you use them for His glory.

# Lesson 5: Satan's Lies and God's Truth (a)

## Main Ideas

Satan lies to us about our basic beliefs. His lies harm us. Obeying God's truth in the Bible will bring change to our lives.

## Review of Lesson 3 and 4

- God has a purpose for our lives. He wants us to grow and our lives to improve. God is looking for people who will bring change for others (like Mama Nicole).
- God has given us many resources. When we recognise them, we can begin to use them to serve God and others.

## Introduction

*Pastor: You can use this introduction, or share a story about yourself or someone else who believed a lie and acted on it.*

There is a famous play by William Shakespeare where a general's trusted friend lies to him. He says that the general's wife is having an affair with one of his soldiers. The general believes this liar. He kills his wife before discovering the truth.

Has anyone ever told you a lie that you believed? Lies can really affect us! When we believe a lie and act on it, it can hurt us and others. Let's look at what the Bible says about how lies can harm us.

## Key Ideas

**Satan is a liar. Believing his lies harms us.**

*John 8:44 - '...He (Satan) was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies'.*

- The devil is a murderer and liar who has no truth in him. He is the father of lies.
- He lied in the beginning of the world when he deceived Adam and Eve. He convinced them that God didn't want what was best for them. He convinced them to disobey God.
- The result was that sin entered the world, and humans' relationships with God, each other, and creation were broken.
- Satan continues to lie to us today. He wants to convince us that we should not trust God and obey His word.
- Satan's lies continue to create brokenness in our relationships with God, others, and creation.

**God's truth frees us from Satan's lies.**

John 8:31-32 - *'To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"'*.

- The truth will set us free from Satan's lies.
- We know the truth by following Jesus' teaching - by following the Bible.

John 16:13a - *'When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth'.*

- Part of the Holy Spirit's work is to help us know what is true.
- We must pray that He will show us the truth and show us what to do.

If we want to be free from Satan's lies, we must spend time reading the Bible to know the truth. We must ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand what to do.

### **As we obey God's truth, our lives will be changed.**

- **LIE #1:** Satan wants us to believe that obeying God does not change our lives. We think **'If we are born poor, we will die poor. There is no hope for change'**.
- When we believe this lie:
  - We don't see God's good intention for our life and have no hope of a better future.
  - We do not try to change anything.
  - This is NOT what the Bible says.
- TRUTH: God will bless us if we are obedient to Him.  
Deuteronomy 30:15-16, 19 - *'See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess... This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live'.*
  - Obeying God's commands leads to life and blessing.
  - Disobedience leads to death and destruction.
- If we really believed that God blesses those who obey Him:
  - We would seek to obey God in all areas of life.
  - We would receive His blessings.
- Satan knows that if we obey God in all things, then we will be blessed by God. Satan wants us to be poor, hungry, and unhappy, so he tells lies to us. His lies keep us in poverty.

### **Story Illustration: The Well**

In one area where TCT was taught, people had to walk 5 kilometres to a river to get water. They dreamed of having water in their villages. They prayed that God would give them water, but no organisation ever turned up to dig wells. One year, a church in the area felt like God was telling them to dig and see if they could find water. So they did. It

was very hot, so each person could only dig for about 15 minutes. Then they would have to pass to the next person. By the end of the day, they had struck water. They were amazed! The next weekend they dug another well and then another one. Other villages heard about what was happening and they also started to dig wells. They also found water. Today there are over 200 wells in that area.

- The reason they hadn't dug a well before wasn't laziness - they always worked hard.
- It was because of their beliefs. They believed that their lives would not change unless outsiders helped them.
- For generations they had waited for a well. Really, a well was only a day's work away.
- Their wrong beliefs affected how they acted. This meant they still had to walk for water.
- They finally have water in their villages because they were obedient to God.

### **Conclusion and Application**

Satan wants us to believe lies. But we should read the Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand God's truth. When we obey God's word, our lives will change.

- Ask God to show you any lies that you believe. Ask Him to help you obey Him in everything.

# Lesson 6: Satan's Lies and God's Truth (b)

## Main Ideas

All people are important to God. God has created work as a way for us to glorify him and bless others.

## Review of Lesson 5

- Satan lies to us about our basic beliefs. His lies keep us in poverty. Obeying what God says in the Bible will bring change to our lives.

## Introduction

Let me tell you a true story:

Widows in Nakalama were in a desperate situation. They had no education and no employment. Other family members often claimed the husbands' property, leaving them homeless. They couldn't even feed their children, so they turned to prostitution to make some income. Due to their shame and hopelessness, they drank alcohol. Many widows hanged themselves.

What should the church do about these widows? Should they stay away from them? Should they try to help? And if so, what is the best way to help?

Let's talk about two lies that Satan tells us, and how they affect us.

## Key Ideas

**LIE #2: 'Some people are better than other people. We are not important'.**

- When we believe this lie:
  - We do not think we are worth anything, so we do not try to change.
    - The widows in the story believed this.
  - We do not care for those who we think are worse than us.
    - If the church in the story believed this lie, they would not have tried to help the widows.

**TRUTH: We are all made specially by God. He loves each of us and has a plan for us.**

Psalm 139:13-16

*'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.'*

- God made each person in a special way. And God loves each of us so much that He sent His son to die for us.

Genesis 1:26-27

*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, 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.*

- God created human beings to be different from the rest of creation. Humans are created in God's image and likeness. God provided for them and gave them the job of ruling over the earth.
- There are no high people and low people in God's kingdom.
- If we really believed that each person is made specially by God:
  - We would treat each person with love.
  - We would see their value and potential, not only their problems.
  - We would help to develop the person to their potential.

So what did the church do? Let's continue the story of the widows.

The church in Nakalama learned that God loves everyone—even alcoholic prostitutes. So they collected some sugar, salt, and soap and took it to widows. As they delivered the gifts, they saw the widows' circumstances and felt bad, so they invited them to a training at their church. Grateful for the gifts and surprised to be invited to church, many widows came to the training. The pastor taught from Psalm 139—that each person is carefully and wonderfully made by God. The widows exclaimed, "Even us?!" Immediately, their lives began to change. Because they understood that God valued them, they began to value themselves. They stopped considering suicide. They joined the church that had shown them love. Since God made their bodies, they no longer defiled them with prostitution and drinking. With the church's help, they began gardening and selling produce, earning enough to provide for their families.

- The church knew the widows were important to God.
- They helped the widows by providing for their needs and helping them to find work.
- The widows began to understand that they were valuable and that their lives could change.

Let's talk about another lie Satan tells us.

**LIE #3: 'Work is a curse and a heavy burden. It is good to work as little as possible'.**

- When we believe this lie:
  - We do not work hard. We try to do as little as possible.
  - Our fields produce less and we do not have enough food for our family.
  - If the church in the story believed this, they would not have helped the widows find work.

TRUTH: We are designed to work. Work is good.

Genesis 2:15 - *'The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it'.*

- Work is not part of the curse. Adam worked before The Fall. Work was designed by God as good.

Ephesians 4:28 - *'Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need'.*

Colossians 3:23 - *'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters'.*

- Work gives us dignity and a way that we can glorify God.
- If we really believed that work is good:
  - We would work hard and not give up.
  - This could lead to earning more. We would have something to share.
  - We would help other people find work they could do. This would help them change their lives as well. This is what happened in Nakalama with the widows.

### **Conclusion and Application**

We must not believe Satan's lies, but instead obey God's truths. Ask God to show you if there is someone you need to treat better, knowing they are important to God. Ask God to give you strength to work hard to glorify Him and have something to share with others.

# Lesson 7: Satan's Lies and God's Truth (c)

## Main Ideas

Satan tells us the lie that God only cares about spiritual things. The truth is that God cares about every part of our lives, not just spiritual things. God wants us to care for every part of other people's lives as well.

## Review of Lessons 5 and 6

- Satan lies to us about our basic beliefs. Satan's lies harm us. Obeying God's truth in the Bible will bring change to our lives.
- Satan tells us that some people are more important than others. But God cares about each person, and we must treat each person with love and help them develop their potential.

## Introduction

What if Jesus came to earth and talked about spiritual things but ignored people's pain and disease? What if he talked about being the bread from heaven but ignored people's hunger? Do you think people would have followed Him?

Today we are going to talk about two more lies that Satan tells us.

## Key Ideas

### LIE #4: 'God only cares about spiritual things'.

- When we believe this lie:
  - We think the gospel message only affects our spiritual life, not life now.
  - We only focus on prayer, sermons, or other 'spiritual' things.
  - We neglect things like work, family, health, or community problems.
  - We do not try to change our physical, mental, or social lives. We stay the same.

### TRUTH: God cares about all aspects of our lives.

Romans 8:22 - *'We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time'.*

- All things were broken in The Fall.

Colossians 1:19-20 - *'For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Jesus), 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'.*

- Jesus died to reconcile every aspect of our lives back to God, not just spiritual things.

1 Corinthians 10:31 - *'So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God'.*

- God wants us to do everything for His glory, not just spiritual things.

- If we really believed that God cares about all aspects of our lives:
  - We would try to grow physically, mentally, and socially as well as spiritually.
  - We would seek to know God's will for our work, family, health, and community.
  - We would try to live every area of life to glorify God, and our whole lives would be more like God intends.
  - Others would see our good lives and want the same.

### **Story Illustration: Loving Their Wives**

In one community, many women were rising at 1 AM. They would collect firewood, fetch water, and prepare breakfast. After breakfast, they would work for hours in the field and take care of other household duties. Each evening, the women would return exhausted from a long day's work. While studying TCT, a few church leaders who wanted to obey God in all areas of their life decided to show love by helping their wives. The men awoke with their wives at 4 AM to help, allowing their wives three extra hours of sleep. The women felt more rested and valued by their husbands. The families were happier, healthier, and more peaceful. Others in the community noticed something had changed in these families. It didn't take them long to find out the men had been waking at 4 AM, allowing their wives extra sleep. Instead of laughing at the men, the other husbands started to change! Now, the families in the community are much happier and healthier.

- God cares about all aspects of our lives.
- These men wanted to obey and glorify God in every area, including their marriages.
- God blessed their families and the whole community through them.

### **LIE #5: 'God only wants us to evangelise our neighbours. We don't need to care for their physical needs'**

- When we believe this lie:
  - We preach the gospel but do not care for physical needs.
  - People often do not believe us when we tell them that God loves them. We are seen as hypocrites.

#### TRUTH: God has told us to love our neighbours by caring for their physical needs.

- Matthew 25:31-46 - The parable of the sheep and the goats. We read this a while ago.
  - The sheep provide food, water and shelter. The King says, *'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me' (v.40).*
  - Jesus reminds us that loving means helping with physical needs.
- Luke 10:25-37 - The parable of the Good Samaritan. You know this story about a man who was attacked by robbers. A man from an enemy town washed his wounds and took him to an inn. He paid for the man's care.
  - The Samaritan helped the man by taking care of his medical needs.
  - Jesus said that if we want to truly love our neighbours, we must do the same.
  - Loving our neighbours means meeting their physical needs.

- If we really believed that loving our neighbours means meeting their physical needs:
  - We would look to see what people need. We would try to help.
  - People would feel the love of God. They would be more open to hearing the gospel.
  - People would honour and respect the church and speak well of God.

### **Story Illustration: Evangelism Through Action**

A church in Cote D'Ivoire had spent years faithfully evangelising in their community, only to meet with contempt from their neighbours. One day, the pastor saw an old man sitting outside his hut in a rainstorm, shivering. The mud hut was so run down that he would get just as wet inside as out. The pastor told the church, and they made a plan to build the old man a new house.

They made their own clay bricks, purchased cement with their own money, and worked to construct the house. They put on a solid roof, installed electricity, and finished the inside with plaster and paint. Everyone in the church participated in the project—young and old, men and women.

People in the community began to speak well of the Christians. During construction, seven people gave their lives to Christ. When the church held a ceremony to hand the house over to the old man, 64 more people decided to follow Jesus. The churches in three nearby communities saw what God did through this Act of Love and decided they would do Acts of Love too!

- The church showed God's love by meeting the needs of a neighbour.
- God used the Act of Love to open people's hearts to the gospel.

### **Conclusion and Application**

Jesus cared about every part of people's lives. God wants us to care about our neighbour's physical needs as well as their spiritual needs.

Ask God to show you if there is a need you can meet as a way to show His love.

Ask Him how you can glorify Him in every area of your life.

# Lesson 8: Satan's Lies and God's Truth (d)

## Main Ideas

Satan wants us to think that we should not give because we are poor. He wants us to think that we are dependent on others to give us money before our lives can change.

## Review of Lessons 5-7

- Satan lies to us about our basic beliefs. His lies keep us in poverty. God's word is true. His truth frees us from Satan's lies.
- Here are some truths we've talked about:
  - Obeying what God says in the Bible will bring change to our lives.
  - Each and every person is valuable to God, and we must treat them as valuable.
  - God designed us to work. Work is a blessing that gives us a way to be generous.
  - God cares about every area of our lives, not just spiritual things.
  - Loving our neighbours means caring for their physical needs.

## Introduction

*Pastor: Tell a story about how your life is different because you obey God's truth.*

- Today, we will look at two final lies that Satan tells us.

## Key Ideas

**LIE #6: 'We can't change our lives without finances from someone else'.**

- When we believe this lie:
  - We wait for someone to give us money. We do nothing to change our situation.
  - Even if someone gives us a little, nothing really changes.
  - We don't see and use the resources God has given us.

**TRUTH: As we use what God has given us to bless others, then He will bless us.**

Matthew 25:14-30 - The parable of the talents. (*We just read this in lesson 4.*)

- Remember that two servants used what they were given and multiplied it.
- The master rewarded them both!
- What mattered was not the amount, but the faithfulness of the servants.
- One servant did NOT use what he was given. He was not rewarded.
- If we really believed that as we use what God has given us to bless others, then He will bless us:
  - We would look to see what God has given us.
  - We would work hard.
  - We would be generous and do as much as we could to bless others.
  - We would receive God's blessings.

**Story Illustration: Cleaning the market of Kamayi**

In a market in Kamayi, people would often throw their waste on the road. The toilet was built near the road as well, and waste from the toilet also fell on the road. The whole market was smelly and polluted. The church in the area went to clean up the market one Sunday. The pastor, along with whole families, even young children, brought brooms and shovels to clean the area. The president of the market asked them if they were hoping to be paid for the work. The pastor answered, 'We did this to show the love of God. Now, those who sell and those who buy at the market will be healthy and avoid diseases'. The president was surprised. 'This is the first time we have seen a church do something like this!' The chairwoman was inspired to take contributions from the sellers in the market to buy carts to carry rubbish into a ravine that was far from the market. Now people are healthier in the community, and the church is respected.

- The church used the resources they had to show love to their neighbours.
- God blessed them and their community.
- The people in the community are healthier.
- The church has a better relationship with the community.

**LIE #7: 'We are so poor that we don't need to give. Other people should give to us'.**

- When we believe this lie:
  - We do not give. Tithes are low.
  - We hope for outsider donors. We think we are dependent on others.
  - Nothing gets done because we are waiting.
  - We miss out on God's blessings

TRUTH: Even the poorest are not excused from giving. We all need to give, recognising that God has given us everything and is willing to provide us with all that we need.

*1 Kings 17:7-14 - 'Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die." Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.'"*

- God could have sent Elijah to a rich person. Instead, He asked a poor widow to help Elijah.
- He wanted to bless this widow by giving her a chance to give. He showed her His power to provide for all of our needs.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 - *And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.*

- The Macedonians (the poorest people) gave in the time of Paul.
- They were eager to give themselves to the Lord and to other people.
- We all need to give, recognising that God has given us everything and is willing to provide us with all that we need. If we really believed this:
  - We would see that our resources are not just money.
  - We would make sacrifices and give in order to make something happen.

### **Story Illustration: Bringing Change**

Four TCT churches near each other were very poor. Together, they started to do all kinds of Acts of Love in their communities. They helped each other with harvesting. They dug latrine pits for themselves and their neighbours. Their village was only accessible by a footpath through the forest. They levelled and paved a road. During Covid, the church members contributed three tons of rice and took it to nearby communities who needed help. Because of the churches' faithfulness, God blessed them. Their communities have been transformed. They have moved out of poverty. The local government, which used to persecute the churches, now points to these churches in public meetings, saying, 'You need to be more like these Christians'.

- These churches were very poor.
- They began to work hard.
- They used their resources generously.
- God blessed them.

If everyone in our community generously used the resources God gave them:

- Our community would be a better place to live.
- Our community would be more like God wants it to be.

### **Conclusion and Application**

Think about whether you truly believe that:

- God will bless us if we use what we have to bless others.
- We all need to give, even if we are poor.

The Bible says the truth will set us free from Satan's lies. But that only happens as we put it into practice. It is not enough to hear the truth. We must obey in order to see God begin to bless us.

- Ask God how you can put these truths into practice this week. Spend a minute listening.

**Pastor:** *Pray that God will break the power of lies in our community and help our minds to be filled with the truth. Pray that God will help us remember His truth and put it into practice.*

# Lesson 9: Understanding Your Community

## Main Ideas

We must put what we have learned about God's truth into action. We can do this by looking carefully at our community and asking God what we should do to bring change.

## Materials

A note of your currency

Large paper with community map (pre-drawn by church leaders)

Marker, pen, or pencil

***Pastor:** Before teaching this lesson, you should read through APPENDIX 1 with the other leaders from your church. You should make a map of your community together. This map will be used during the service.*

## Review of Lessons 1-8

- We are not saved by obeying God, but by faith in Jesus. But as we continue to follow God, obeying Him, our lives should change.
- One way our lives should change is that we should be stewards of God's creation. We should rule over, work, and take care of creation.
- God has a purpose for our lives. He wants us to grow and our lives to improve. God is looking for people who will bring change for others.
- God has given us many resources. When we recognise them, we can begin to use them to serve God and others.
- Satan is a liar. Believing his lies results in brokenness and death in relationships and in the community.
- We get rid of Satan's lies by believing the truth. We must read the Bible and pray for the Holy Spirit to help us see God's truth. The truth will set us free.

## Introduction

Imagine a person who is concerned about how they look. They go to a mirror and look into the mirror. Then, instead of combing their hair or wiping their face, they go away and forget what they saw in the mirror. How useless that would be! But sometimes we act like this.

## Key Ideas

**Nothing changes if we don't act on it.**

*James 1:22-25 - 'Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives*

*freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do’.*

- We don’t want to be like a fool who knows the truth but doesn’t act on it.
- We have heard what God’s truths are.
- We need to decide how to apply God’s truths to our community and then act on this! We and our community will be blessed.

### **Think carefully about the problems in our community.**

Sometimes we are so familiar with something that we don’t really see it anymore.

***Pastor:** Hold up a note of your currency briefly. Tell people what note it is. Ask the group to answer the following questions. Tell them NOT to look at a note, but to see if they can remember. Most people cannot remember many details about the note.*

1. How many times does the number 1 appear on the note?
2. Where is the serial number on the note?
3. What colour is the serial number?
4. Is there an animal on the note? What animal?
5. How many people appear on the note?
6. What words appear on the back of the note?

We don’t really see things that we are very familiar with. Like with this note, there are probably things in our community that we see every day and don’t notice. We need to really think about our community again. We need to understand clearly what the problems are that we face and what our hopes are for the future. Then, we can think about how we can help.

***Pastor:** Ask someone to hold up the map that you and the other leaders made. Explain the different things you included on the map. Ask if anyone notices anything you missed. You may add their suggestions to the map.*

### **Ask God what His intentions are for our community.**

I want us to do something very different today. I want us to break into groups and think about 2 things.

- What are the problems in our community? Think about all the things on the map that have problems. In your groups, I want you to ask God to show you what these problems are. Discuss them together.
- Then, ask God to show you what His intentions are for our community. What would our community be like if God caused our community to flourish? What would be different on the map?
- Choose someone to tell the church what you discussed.

***Pastor:** Ask men, women, and youth to go to different groups. Give them time to pray and talk. Then, after each group shares, make notes on the map of the changes they long to see.*

### **Make a plan to begin to bring change.**

It may be hard to believe we will ever see the changes talked about. But let me tell you a true story.

### **Story Illustration: 14th Street Church**

14<sup>th</sup> Street church was a small, isolated church. Nothing had changed in the last 40 years, and they couldn't imagine why anything would change now. As they drew their map, they were hesitant. Was it okay to include things that they wanted—like a tractor? What about big things that they felt like only the government could do—like a bridge? Since the government persecuted the church, there seemed little hope they would ever do as the church asked. However, with the encouragement of their TCT trainer, the church added even these unlikely dreams to their “flourishing” map. They hung the map on the church wall. Every Sunday they prayed that God would bring change to the community. Once a month they gathered around the map and asked God to show them what to do next. They were eager to start on a school building, but God seemed to say, “Not now”. Someone also pointed out they had a tractor on the map, so they prayed for a tractor. As they prayed, God showed them they only had a walking path to the fields, so a tractor wouldn't get there. So the church decided to widen the walking path. That year everyone in the village was able to harvest so much more because, with the wider path, they could use a motorbike with a cart attached to haul crops instead of carrying it on their backs. The whole village was so grateful that they gave the church some of the extra profit they made—enough to buy a tractor! They kept meeting, praying, looking at their map, and wondering what to do next. They completed many projects that they had dreamed of—wells, toilets, house repairs. They even took on projects that they never imagined that they could do, including building a bridge. But still no school. Then suddenly one day the government came and built a beautiful school! Amazingly, it was built in the exact spot where they had drawn it on their map! After 5 years, with their hard work and God's multiplication, they had completed everything on the map. They were already reaching out to neighbouring communities to help them as well!

- 14th Street Church asked God what His intentions were for their community. They asked Him what to do. They obeyed Him.
- God multiplied what they had to bless them and their community.
- God is powerful. He wants to bless us as we obey Him.
- God's ways are better than our ways. Let's keep praying for God to show us what to do to bring changes.

Our leaders will meet this week.

- We will draw a new map of our community, showing what it could be if we obey God and He causes it to flourish.

- We will pray about what Act of Love God would have us do to begin to bring change to our community.
- We will plan the Act of Love and tell you about the plan next week.

### **Conclusion**

We must not only learn the truth, but act on it. God has good intentions for our community.

***Pastor:** Lead the congregation to pray over the map, asking God for his wisdom and power to help bring change to the community.*

Please pray this week that God gives the leadership team wisdom in choosing and planning our next Act of Love. We need as many people as possible to join in the Act of Love.

***Pastor:** Sometime in the next week, leaders should meet to draw a new map (or invite someone in the congregation who is good at drawing to do it). They should read through APPENDIX 2 and plan an Act of Love.*

## APPENDIX 1

### Making a Community Map - to be used in lesson 9

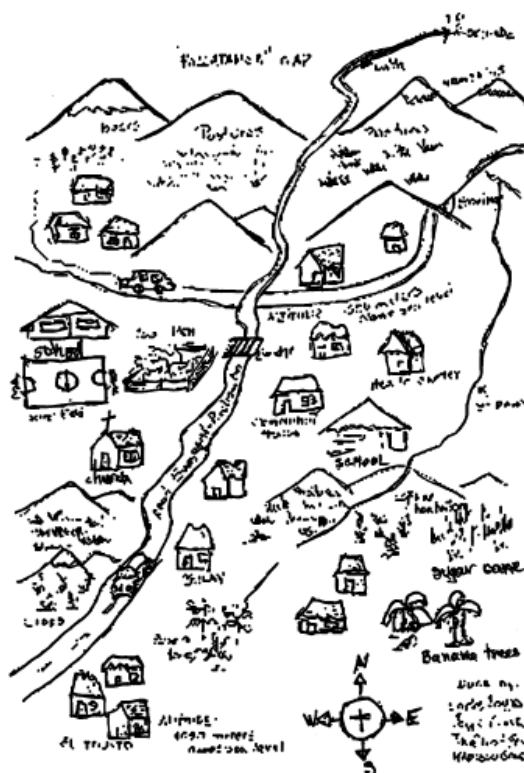
- 1) Draw 3 boxes on a piece of paper. Label each box: Rich, Poor, Very Poor.
- 2) Note in each box what rich, poor, or very poor people have. (An example of the house is done for you.)
- 3) Note whether there are more rich, poor, or very poor people in your community. If you only had 10 houses in your community, how many would be rich, poor, or very poor?

Rich	Poor	Very poor
Stable, comfortable house. Food? Belongings? Children? Land? Education?	They only have a house, nothing inside.	House is falling down.

- 4) On a large sheet of paper, create a map of your community. Include some houses showing where rich, poor, and very poor people live. Show any major mountains, hills, or water sources. (Here is a sample of what it might look like.)

- 5) Mark the following:
  - a. Where people get drinking water
  - b. Schools, hospitals, markets, health centres, etc.
  - c. Important religious places
  - d. Places where people get fuel for cooking
  - e. Important roads
  - f. Recreational areas

*Your map will be used in Lesson 9. You should be able to explain what the different things on the map represent.*



## APPENDIX 2

### Next Steps

#### You will need:

- Community Map with notes from congregation
- Blank cards
- A marker, pen, or pencil

#### Prioritising Projects

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Look at the map you made and marked with the congregation's input. The next step to bringing change to our communities is to decide which needs to start with first.

1. Look at the map and note where rich, poor, and very poor families live. Think about the changes that you would like to see happen in these families. Write each change on a card.
2. Look again at the community map and write the other desired changes on cards.
3. Put all the cards together. Ask the leaders to look through them and see if there are any changes that they hope to see that are not yet listed.
4. Sort all the cards into 3 piles: most important, important, not so important.
  - For the cards that are most important, put 3 marks on the card.
  - For the cards that are important, put 2 marks.
  - For the cards that are not so important, put 1 mark.
5. Put the cards together again and sort them according to how easy the problem is to solve. Easy to solve, so-so, and very difficult to solve.
  - On the cards that are easy to solve put 3 marks.
  - On the so-so cards, put 2 marks.
  - On the difficult to solve cards, put 1 mark.
6. Find all the cards that have 6 marks (or 5 marks if no cards have 6 marks). These are the changes that are both most important and easiest to achieve.
7. From these cards choose 1 or 2 that you want to start with.

#### Planning an Act of Love

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Now that we have chosen the first thing(s) we want to focus on, the next step is to plan an Act of Love!

#### Steps for Planning an Act of Love

1. Pray – *Pray for God to give ideas and to guide the group's thoughts and words.*
2. Select an activity – We have already identified what need we want to start with. Did God give any ideas of how to meet this need as we prayed? *(Give time to share and discuss. Together, agree on what God is leading the group to do.)*

3. Prepare a plan – *Discuss the following questions. If possible, have someone record the answers so that you don't forget.*
  - What are you going to do?
  - What resources do you need? Where will you get those things? Who will get them?
  - Who are you going to help?
  - Who is going to participate in helping? Who will invite everyone?
  - What date are you going to do it?
4. Pray – *Ask God to help you complete the project and to multiply the results. Pray that His name may be glorified.*

Next, you should present the activity that you have planned to the church, and then do the activity. After you have done this, report back and evaluate.

***Pastor:*** *We want you to keep your map. Hang it on the wall and pray with your congregation each week that God would help to bring change to your community. Ask God to show you what Act of Love your church could be doing next. God may surprise you with how He directs you. Remember, His ways are always better than our ways.*