

I can EXAMINE



Examine your attitudes and values:

- ⊕ What are my personal values and priorities? Do I need to change how I am living or what I am doing in order to improve the well-being of others, including the poor?
- ⊕ What things should I *stop* doing because they are contributing to the suffering of the poor?
- ⊕ What things should I *start* doing to help reduce the suffering of the poor in our world?
- ⊕ How can I help my friends and family to act more compassionately toward those in need?
- ⊕ How can I change my spending practices and priorities so that I can give more to help the poor?
- ⊕ How can my church, my school, or my civic organization be more involved in helping the poor?
- ⊕ How can I be involved in political activities that could help to improve the well-being of people who are suffering in our world?
- ⊕ What does the Bible say about helping the poor and living responsibly in our world?
- ⊕ What are my real attitudes to the poor, to those affected by HIV/AIDS, to people involved in conflicts in other parts of the world? Do I need to change my attitudes?

If we want to change our world, we must begin by changing ourselves.

Think about it: What would it be like to live in a developing country?

Most families in our world live with very little. They live in homes that are often the size of an American bedroom. They have almost no furniture—a few blankets, a table, some sleeping mats. Each family member has one or two changes of clothes. Often only the head of the family has a pair of shoes.

Food is scarce. Many families eat only one meal a day. Often there is no fresh meat, no fresh vegetables. Of course they have no canned goods, no crackers or cookies, no candy, no soda.

Most families in the world have no running water. No toilets. No electricity. That means no television or radio or computers. Most families in the developing world have no newspapers, magazines, or books. In fact, many times no one in the family can read.

Communities in the developing world have few government services—no mail delivery, no firefighters, only a few untrustworthy police. There is no phone service. There is a school, but it is often miles away and consists of one or two classrooms. In many places children cannot go to school because they cannot afford the books or school supplies. The communities often have no hospitals or doctors nearby. The nearest clinic may be miles away.

The people who live in these settings do so with courage and perseverance.

How would you cope in a similar setting? Would you be resourceful to survive?

I'm only one person, but I can make a difference!



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