



World Vision

the HEART *of the* MATTER

A Women of Vision Study



Communities
Transformed *with*

CHANGE that **LASTS**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERIES OVERVIEW

The Heart of the Matter is a biblically based, interactive study series that focuses on three areas: how Christians are called to respond to the needs of the poor (*Hope in a World of Hurt*); the root causes of poverty and how transformational development brings hope and lasting change to communities and individuals (*Communities Transformed with Change that Lasts*); and the ways in which extreme poverty and injustice uniquely impact the lives of women and children (*Touching the Lives of Women in Poverty*).

The study offers opportunities to:

- » explore Scripture.
- » personally reflect, share, and pray about injustices in the world.
- » develop a greater understanding about poverty and oppression.
- » participate in interactive learning experiences.
- » learn about the transformational work of World Vision.

The combination of video, printed material, discussion and reflection questions, simulations, quizzes, and other learning activities contribute to a multifaceted, creative learning experience that is easy to lead and engaging for all participants.

STUDY OVERVIEW

***Communities Transformed with Change That Lasts* includes six sessions:**

1. Build Up Without Tearing Down

Jesus demonstrated His love and compassion by providing care to those in need. He also recognized the gifts people shared with Him and their communities. In doing so, Jesus demonstrated the role each of us can play in creating a better life for all people.

2. The Bread of Life—More Than Spiritual Food

Jesus often referred to the “living water” and “bread of life” as He spread the good news. For people who have difficulty finding water and food to sustain them, it can be challenging to understand Jesus’ words.

3. The Sick and Tired Fall Harder

Throughout His lifetime, Jesus repeatedly healed the sick. Today we have knowledge and medicines that can cure a lot of illnesses, but many people who are ill do not have the access, the knowledge, and the resources required to stay healthy.

4. Literacy Means Life

When community members, especially women, learn to read, the entire community benefits. The resulting positive actions can help communities draw closer to the fullness of life God wants for all of His children.

5. Economic Development—One Loan at a Time

Jesus called people to live, learn, and work together in community. His example illustrates how, in collaboration, people can have a far-reaching impact on their community. By combining talents and resources to boost individual opportunities for starting businesses, community members help everyone reach more fullness of life.

6. Changed Lives Change Lives

World Vision engages local people at the grassroots level, helping them decide how to improve their own lives, what talents they can contribute to the effort, and what assistance they need to reach their goals. This integrated development model demonstrates the love and respect Jesus asks us to replicate while helping people find a secure path to living a fuller life.

USING THIS STUDY

This study is ideal for a group setting, although individuals can easily adapt it for their use. Each lesson is designed for a 60 to 90 minute timeframe. Some lessons might take a bit longer, so choose the sections and activities that work best for you or your group.

LEADING GROUP LESSONS

If you are leading a group, please review the Leaders Notes that accompany each lesson. Leaders Notes, handouts, and other resources are available at www.womenofvision.wordpress.com/hotm. These notes will help you facilitate a smooth-flowing exchange among group members to build community, deepen faith, and increase knowledge.

Read each lesson before you facilitate it; then use it creatively to meet the needs of your group members. Knowing your audience will help you determine which strategies will work best. Some activities require preparation. Expect to spend 20 to 30 minutes preparing for each lesson—praying, reading, working through transitions, and contextualizing material. Also review the list of required materials, which often include downloadable resources from the Web site noted above.

INDIVIDUAL STUDY

If you prefer to work through this study on your own, you can do so with some minor adaptations. In addition to the lessons here, the Web site noted above provides resources and a discussion board where you can build community with others who are also participating individually.



HANDOUTS, VIDEOS, AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Each lesson includes a list of required supplies and materials. All handouts, videos, and resources needed for each session can be downloaded from womenofvision.wordpress.com/hotm.