



LESSON SIX

Changed **LIVES** Change **LIVES**

OVERVIEW

World Vision engages local people in deciding how to improve their own lives, which 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 a fuller life.

KEY SCRIPTURES

- » Matthew 11:28-30
- » Isaiah 61:1-3
- » Luke 4:16-21

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- » How does World Vision's approach to community development support lasting and sustainable change?
- » How has this study changed me, and how is God calling me to engage in His work?

LESSON GOALS

- » Reflect on Christian commitment in the World Vision development model.
- » Study the workings of the World Vision area development program.
- » Learn about World Vision child sponsorship and its long-term benefits.
- » Identify and reflect on how you have been changed through this study.

MATERIALS

Pen, Bible, computer with Internet access, and a video player

ONLINE RESOURCES from womenofvision.wordpress.com/hotm

- » "Journey of Transformation" video

AGENDA

- » Welcome and opening prayer
- » How Christian commitment is vital to development work
- » Experience an area development program
- » Learn about child sponsorship
- » Choose a personal response
- » Review further study suggestions
- » Close in prayer



WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

1. Begin by summarizing the article you found for homework. Then share or journal your responses to the following questions:

» How are the issues you've raised with your homework related to one another?

» Do you think the solutions to these problems can be related to one another?

2. Offer a prayer. Ask for an open heart to respond as God calls.



VIDEO

1. In the past several lessons, we have been studying some of the specific challenges World Vision faces around the world. Watch “Journey of Transformation” to step deeper into the development process that brings many aspects of life together.

2. After the video, consider:

Which of these responses best describes your reaction and why?

- I was surprised to see how intertwined so many components of life can be.
- My feelings evolved from fear and sadness to joy as I watched the story.
- I want to know more about how to transform a place that is in such a situation.
- I don't understand how the transformation occurred.
- Other: (explain)

Share or journal your thoughts about your answer.



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

1. Read Matthew 11:28-30.

2. So often throughout His ministry on earth, Jesus used comforting words and images to draw in His followers and offer His peaceful presence. He also repeatedly asked for humility from those who chose to follow Him.

Considering this command, imagine that you are about to embark on a journey to visit a World Vision site. You will be attending a village meeting where World Vision workers are taking the first step of implementing a long-term project by gathering villagers to get to know them and hear their concerns.

Share or journal your response to the following question:

» What characteristics mentioned in the Scripture passage will you rely on during this session?



CONSIDER OUR WORLD TODAY

1. Consider the following:

World Vision's definition of engaging in transformational development begins with a call for humility. The organization recognizes that when we humbly listen to our brothers and sisters in need, we are better able to determine what they need and how change can happen.

World Vision also recognizes that transformational development takes time. Most problems don't occur overnight; neither do solutions. Creating a holistic approach to development allows long-lasting change to grow from people experiencing the freedom to discover how God is working among them for themselves.

World Vision integrates its focus into three areas:

First, World Vision is Christian. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, World Vision serves alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Second, World Vision's child focus prioritizes children, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, and empowers them together with their families and communities to improve their well-being.

Third, World Vision’s work is community-based. The primary role in communities is to “walk alongside” communities, organizations, agencies, and the church, which are rooted in the situation, with children as the primary focus.

The World Vision model is built on trust, empowerment, community ownership, and sustainability—wrapped in our commitment to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

The model World Vision uses to bring these three pieces to life is called the **area development program (ADP)**. The overarching objective of every area development program is that the community will bring about its own transformation.

To make this happen, World Vision employs material interventions related to the many issues we’ve studied in this module—food, water, healthcare, education, and microfinance loans. It also employs spiritual interventions through the witness of its work. To fully engage the community, it follows these steps for social interventions:

- » Build trust in the community through nurturing relationships.
- » Mobilize community leaders and members to participate.
- » Empower the community members to make the decisions about the activities.
- » Involve the community in designing its own development interventions.
- » Make the work sustainable; then the community owns it and becomes fully responsible for it.

The World Vision model is built on trust, empowerment, community ownership, and sustainability—wrapped in our commitment to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.



EXPERIENCE AN AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1. In order to better understand a small part of this process, imagine a meeting where each attendee has a specific role to play in a village where World Vision has already worked through the first three steps of the process and is now ready to design the interventions.

2. To begin, consider the following information about the village:

Your village is in a rural area with minimal services. The majority of the population earns less than \$2 per day per family and represents people of three different belief systems and two ethnic groups. Some people are subsistence farmers while others earn wages or own small businesses. There is a weekly market. The village has one nondenominational Christian church. Your village has a school, but not all families can afford the fees, books, and uniforms. Consequently, many children do not attend school or are not able to stay in school due to family needs.

Although most people don’t recognize or know much about HIV and AIDS,

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there is a suspicion that some of the adults are infected with HIV. Malaria is common. Children often suffer from upper-respiratory infections and diarrhea. Your community has a rainy season and a growing season that quickly becomes dry. The region also is subject to severe seasonal storms. Some people are hungry at various times during the year.

One of the needs the villagers have identified is education and literacy. So for the purpose of this activity, we are going to focus on the school and what can be done there as a place to start. World Vision will help with training and contribute funds, school kits, and supplies.

3. Choose a few of the 16 roles noted below. Then reflect on these questions:

- » What resources might you bring to improve the school?
- » Do you have any particular skills you can share?
- » Can you contribute funds?

You are a father whose income is so low that you cannot afford school fees or books for your children. You and your wife are literate. Your subsistence farming provides little cash to the family.

You are a pastor who would like to offer Vacation Bible School to village children. Your church has a building and grounds with volunteers willing to assist. There is no budget for materials and supplies. The children are from Christian, Muslim, and animistic families.

You are a school principal whose school needs desks, chalkboards, and supplies for classrooms. Two carpenters have children in the school and have offered to build desks if materials are provided. There are sufficient numbers of teachers in the village. The national government's ministry of education has provided no funding since the school was built. School fees barely cover operational costs.

You are a woman with a bakery business in your home. You cannot expand because you don't have the cash to buy staples in quantity. You have business skills, established clients, property, and equipment. Women have not often spoken at community meetings. Credit is not available from suppliers, and banks do not make small loans to those who are poor.

You are a farmer who wants to know how to safely store food so your family will not have hungry times during the non-growing season. You have land with good soil and access to water. Food supplies run out quickly, off-season prices are very high, rodents and insects destroy a high percentage of stored food, and food staples mildew and mold in the rainy season.

You are a woman who would like to learn to read and write, and you have friends who would also like to learn. An adult curriculum is available from the



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national government's Ministry of Education. Women do not generally go out of their homes after dark, which arrives early. They are also tired from long days of work. Women have not generally spoken at community meetings.

You are a midwife who would like a motorbike to be able to get to births quickly and in a broader geographic area. You have birthing supplies, are trained in broader health applications, and know the area well. Women like to have a birth attendant. Many women were victims of female genital mutilation and suffer complications during delivery. There is a shortage of midwives in the area, and there are dangers from wild animals at night. Women have not often spoken at community meetings.

You are a nurse who would like to open a small clinic. A property owner has offered a building at low rent. You already have a license from the Ministry of Health. There are no medical supplies available in the community. Most children haven't been immunized, so they are subject to common childhood diseases. There's a high incidence of upper-respiratory infections, especially during rains. There are no start-up funds. Women have not traditionally spoken at community meetings.

You are a neighborhood leader who wants a well so women don't have to go to the river to gather water. Volunteers are willing to provide labor. The river is three kilometers from the village and cattle drink from it. There are also frequent attacks by crocodiles and a high incidence of diarrheal disease, especially among children. There are political implications for where the well will be located.

You are a community elder who wants help advocating to the government for a bridge over the river for easier access to a city hospital and to markets. Volunteers are willing to contribute labor. There is a consensus in the community about the need. The river is impassable during most of the rainy season, and there is no access road to the proposed bridge site on either side. There is a market demand for fresh produce in towns across the river.

You are a child who wants a safe place for your friends to play and some balls and other toys. Available land is adjacent to the school. Parents are supportive and willing to do volunteer work. The land is covered with a thicket and poisonous snakes are common. A fence is needed to keep out cattle. Balls and toys are only available in large towns and are expensive. Girls do not traditionally play outside except at school recess.

You are a schoolteacher who wants a safe place for villagers during hurricanes and other storms. Land is available and bricklayers have volunteered their labor. Severe storms may damage or destroy homes. Flooding occurs near the river in heavy rain, and children can sometimes not get home from school when a storm hits.



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CHOOSE A PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. Consider the following:

One way you can become involved with the process outlined above is through child sponsorship. World Vision's child sponsorship program links children in need with individuals who want to help. The sponsored child benefits through improved living conditions in the community. Sponsors receive regular reports and letters so they can see the difference they are making in the lives of children, families, and communities. World Vision sponsors in the U.S. help provide care for more than 1 million children.

The HopeChild sponsorship program is specifically for orphaned children, children made vulnerable by AIDS, or children at high risk of impact from the AIDS pandemic. The sponsor's monthly gift is combined with the gifts of others who sponsor children in the same community. This allows World Vision to provide long-term resources for lasting change such as clean water, school fees and supplies, nutritious food, health care, spiritual nurture, etc.

2. Read Sam's Story.

Sam is a teenager who has grown up in a poor village in Tanzania. He lives with his mother in a house perched on a slope of red clay—the same kind of earth his mother and older brother used to build their three-room, mud-brick house after Sam's father died.

For many years, Sam and all his neighbors had only unsafe water to drink. The children and women of Sam's village spent many hours carrying buckets of this polluted water more than a quarter mile to their homes; then they often became sick from it.

The only food the villagers had was what they could grow. The local river dries up each fall, limiting the food they can grow to less than they need.

Sam attends a school, thanks to his mother's sacrifices, but it is in a run-down building. Sam dreams of becoming a doctor. As he sits in his tiny mud house with no electricity, no running water, and sometimes no food, it's hard to see how this dream will ever become reality for Sam.

This was Sam's life when World Vision came to the community. As World Vision staff listened to community members, and heard how they wanted their future to look, the organization was able to work with the people to find solutions to foundational problems.

Today Sam has clean drinking water convenient to his home. His new classrooms create a better environment for learning. And, because Sam

continued...

World Vision's child sponsorship program links children in need with individuals who want to help.



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CLOSING PRAYER

1. Read Isaiah 61:1-3 and Luke 4:16-20. Reflect for a few moments on these passages.

2. As you come to the end of this study, it's time to reflect on all that you have learned and how it has touched your lives. Spend a few moments in silent prayer, asking God to guide you as you consider the following:

» Bob Pierce, the founder of World Vision, has a famous prayer that is often repeated. “Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God.” Has your heart been broken? If so, by what in particular?

» How is God calling you, at this time, to best love and serve your neighbors here and around the world?

» What one group of people or issue that you've learned about would you like to bring to God in prayer today?

*“Let my heart be broken
with the things that
break the heart of God.”*

—Bob Pierce

3. Close your prayer time by thanking God for the gift of learning, for His inspiring Word, and for the opportunities you have been given to reach out to those in need.

+ FOR FURTHER STUDY

» Read frequently asked questions about child sponsorship online at www.worldvision.org/sponsorshipFAQs.

» See pages 66-67 to learn more about how you can support World Vision.

» Read Luke 4:14-28. Reflect on the fuller text of this passage and consider these questions: Why do think God sent Elijah to the foreigners? Why were the people in the synagogue so angry with Jesus? What application is there for us? As in the time of Jesus, there is need everywhere.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Many who participate in these studies want to respond when they become aware of the harsh realities that their fellow sisters and brothers around the world are facing every day. Whether that response is prayer, financial support, volunteering, or educating others about the needs, there are opportunities for everyone to do something.

Educate yourself. Request information about another *Heart of the Matter* study. Each study focuses on a different area of concern related to poverty and oppression, including a biblical understanding of poverty and our role in serving those in need; issues specific to women in poverty, advocacy, and social justice; and helping children develop a heart to serve and give. To preview all three studies in the series, go to www.womenofvision.org or www.worldvisionresources.com.

Sponsor a child. For about \$1 a day, you can help a vulnerable boy or girl survive, grow, and reach his or her God-given potential. Your gift will help demonstrate God's love by providing your sponsored child and his or her family and community with access to life's most basic necessities—things like clean water, better nutrition, health care, education, economic opportunities, and most of all, hope for a better future. Go to www.worldvision.org for more information.

Give a gift. World Vision's Gift Catalog allows you to give life-changing gifts to children and families in need—things like goats, clean-water wells, or seeds—in the name of someone special. The Giving Toolbox makes group fundraising easy. Families, school groups, Sunday school classes, and others can work together to make an impact for children around the world. www.worldvisiongifts.org.

Educate the next generation. Ending global poverty and injustice begins with education: recognizing the extent and causes of poverty, comprehending its effect on human dignity, and realizing our connection with those in need around the world. World Vision Resources is the publishing ministry of World Vision, providing learning materials to help prepare Christians to live in an increasingly globalized world and become active citizens who can help shape a better future. Check out World Vision Resources' growing selection of global education resources at www.worldvisionresources.com.

Become a Women of Vision partner. Receive the latest news and updates; join monthly telephone briefings with subject experts from all over the world; receive invitations to local, regional, and national conferences; and help support your local, regional, or global Women of Vision projects. For partnership information go to www.womenofvision.org.

Join the conversation. Subscribe to the latest news and information affecting the poor around the world. Sign up at www.womenofvision.wordpress.com.

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Join or start a Women of Vision chapter. Women of Vision is a volunteer ministry of World Vision that unites Christian women called to invest their time, intellect, compassion, creativity, and finances so that impoverished women and children might find hope and experience a tangible expression of God's love. We are women of diverse ages, backgrounds, and circumstances—united in Christ to serve and walk alongside those in need so that, together, we can experience life in all its fullness. Recognizing the enormous needs in our world, we seek to educate and motivate women in our communities to become women of action in helping create a brighter and healthier future for suffering women and children.



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ABOUT WORLD VISION

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, World Vision serves alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God’s unconditional love for all people. We see a world where each child experiences “fullness of life” as described in John 10:10. And we know this can be achieved only by addressing the problems of poverty and injustice in a holistic way. That’s how World Vision is unique: We bring nearly 60 years of experience in three key areas needed to help children and families thrive: emergency relief, long-term development, and advocacy. And we bring all of our skills across many areas of expertise to each community we work in, enabling us to care for children’s physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Partnering with World Vision provides tangible ways to honor God and put faith into action. By working together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to overcome poverty. To find out more about how you can help, visit www.worldvision.org.

ABOUT WORLD VISION RESOURCES

Ending global poverty and injustice begins with education: understanding the magnitude and causes of poverty, its impact on human dignity, and our connection to those in need around the world.

World Vision Resources is the publishing ministry of World Vision. World Vision Resources educates Christians about global poverty, inspires them to respond, and equips them with innovative resources to make a difference in the world.

For more information about our resources, contact:

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