

Who Are The **POOR**?

WHAT'S THE GOAL?

"We've been sent to the least of these." "Taking back Africa for Jesus." "Hope for New Orleans." The tag-lines appear on brochures, T-shirts, and fundraising letters. Images of malnourished children or homeless people sleeping under overpasses star in short-term trip promotional videos. The appeals are emotionally compelling, and appear to be built around the bible's teaching to care for the materially poor. But on a deeper level, they say an enormous amount about how we view ourselves and how we view low-income people.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Success for a short term trip includes

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

OUR POVERTY

As discussed in the video, brokenness in the four relationships shapes all of us, not just the materially poor.

You may not be materially poor, but what evidence do you see in your life of brokenness in the four foundational relationships?

- Relationship with God:

- Relationship with Self:

- Relationship with Others:

- Relationship with the Rest of Creation:

Being aware of the way our own relationships are stained by sin is important in developing an attitude of humility. We are all dependent on the work of Christ in our lives, and we all share equal worth and value as His image-bearers. But as discussed in the video, the ways we experience poverty are different.

There is something uniquely devastating and painful about material poverty. The ways the materially rich experience poverty don't typically involve going hungry, watching family members die of malnutrition, or living in fear of violence outside our front doors. So as we enter a low-income community, we must be careful not to cheapen or delegitimize the pain that materially poor go through by claiming to understand it, or that our experiences of brokenness are fully the same.

TAKE AWAYS

- Remember that both the materially poor and materially rich experience brokenness in their four foundational relationships. You need Christ's reconciling and healing work in your life, just as the materially poor do.
- So remember that you are not going to "save" people who are poor. In fact, acting from a god-complex or arrogance-tainted heart is one of the fastest ways to harm the materially poor in our attempts to help them.

WHO ARE THE POOR?

We are the poor. When we truly believe this, when it shapes everything we say, think, and do, we can go to Saint Louis in humility. We can lay aside our drive to 'fix' the poor, we can put away our need to 'do' something, and instead we can open our heart to learn from people who are poor, letting Christ restore both of us in our areas of brokenness."

READ PSALM 139:23-24

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. How has your understanding of poverty changed after watching this video?
(No length requirement, just respond)