

“Our Partnership in India”

Pastor Billy Graham Paulose

INTRODUCTION

This week Pastor Billy shared with our church about the progress being made in the Prince of Peace School in India. His work reaches hundreds of children living in poverty that had no hope before they were given the opportunity to go to school and to learn about Jesus. In this study we will consider our role, and our responsibility to those in need.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min): Have you traveled outside of the country? If so, where?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Q1. Read 1 John 4:20-21, 1 Corinthians 13:2-3

Before we consider what our actions towards the poor should be, we should first examine our motives. What command, not suggestion, does God give us in 1 John? According to 1 Corinthians what do you gain if your actions are without love? What does it mean to “love your brother?” Which do you find easier; to give to the poor or love the poor?

Q2. Read James 2:15-17

This passage challenges us to match our actions with our words. Can you think of an instance where you have seen someone in need but not felt pity? How do you think Jesus would have responded in that situation?

Q3. Read Luke 10:29 – 37, Matthew 25:34-46

According to United Nation's Millennium Development Goal (MDG) program 270 million or 21.9% people out of 1.2 billion of Indians lived below poverty line of \$1.25 in 2011-2012. After considering the parable in Luke 10, whom should we consider as our neighbor and what is your responsibility to your neighbor? When you reach out in support to the needy, how does God view your actions (Matthew 25:40)?

Q4. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

When you see the phrase “rich in this present world” whom do you envision? Do you think those in third world countries would view you as rich? How do you decide whether or not this command applies to you?

Q5. Read James 2:5, Proverbs 14:31, Proverbs 19:17

What do these verses reveal about how God views the poor and his relationship to them?

WRAP-UP

In this study we have seen that God has compassion for the poor and wants his people to demonstrate their love for those less fortunate through actions as well as words. Not only does God desire to have us caring for the poor, he promises many rewards to those who do so. Most in America can count themselves among “those who are rich in this present world.” We have the privilege and responsibility, to use what God has given us, to bless others.

Memory Verse

He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

Proverbs 19:17 NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can

apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space) _____

Challenge: Ask God to show you an organization or individual you can support which ministers to the poor of this world.

