



HELPING THE POOR

LIST OF TOPICS

1. What is Discipleship
2. What is Missions
3. His Mission, not ours
4. Discerning God's Will

5. Helping the poor
6. Money, prayer and support
7. Spiritual Readiness
8. Relationships and conflicts

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Understanding poverty Biblically
- Why we should help the poor
- How we should help the poor

INTRODUCE YOURSELF

Share in one minute challenge(s) you face when it comes to helping the poor.



1. UNDERSTANDING POVERTY BIBLICALLY

WHAT IS POVERTY?

LACK OF ...

- Water
- Electricity
- Money
- Opportunity
- Job
- Good health care
- safety

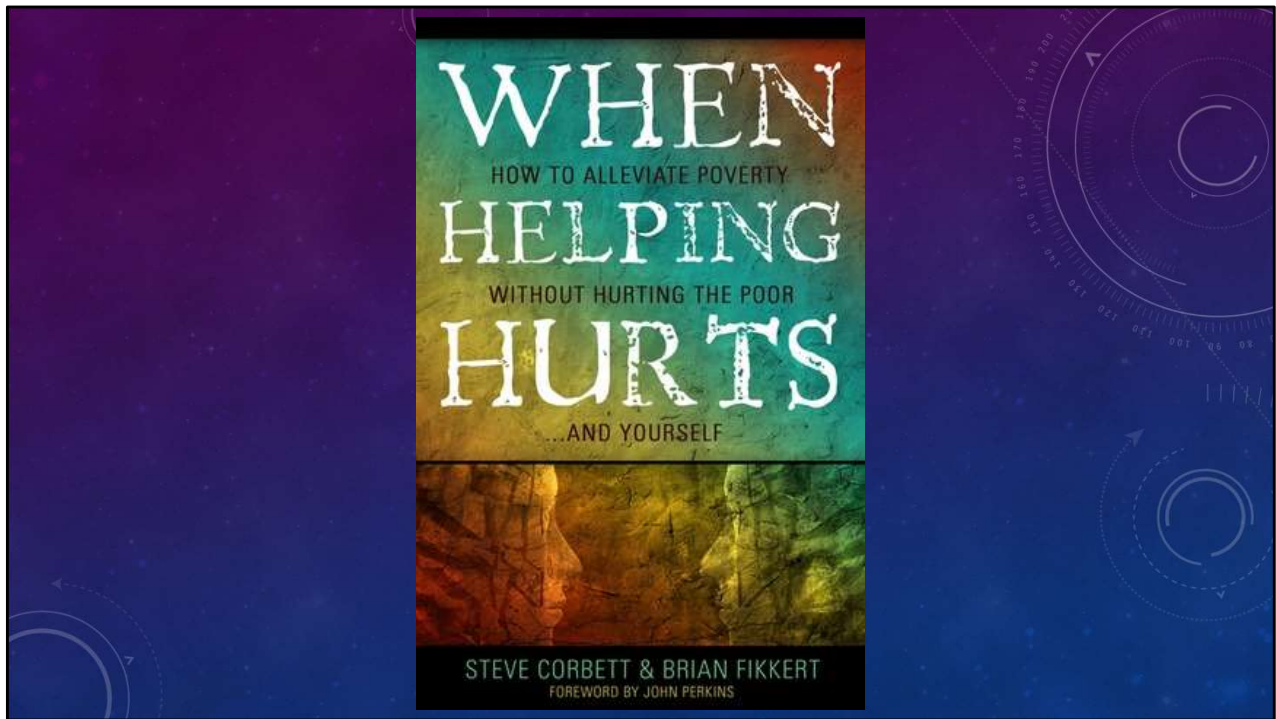


Image source: <https://i.gr-assets.com/images/S/compressed.photo.goodreads.com/books/1328823049/6595233.jpg>

WHAT DO THE POOR THINKS ABOUT POVERTY

For a poor person everything is terrible – illness, humiliation, shame. We are cripples; we are afraid of everything; we depend on everyone. No one needs us. We are like garbage that everyone wants to get rid of

- Moldova

Source: When Helping Hurts – Kindle Reader location 808

*[The poor have] a feeling of
powerlessness and an inability to
make themselves heard.*

- Cameroon

Source: When Helping Hurts – Kindle Reader location 808

What determines poverty or well-being? The indigenous people's destiny is to be poor.

- Ecuador

Source: When Helping Hurts – Kindle Reader location 808

*When I don't have any [food to bring my family], I borrow, mainly from neighbours and friends. I feel **ashamed** standing before my children when I have nothing to help feed the family. I'm not well when I'm unemployed. It's terrible.*

- Guinea-Bissau

Source: When Helping Hurts – Kindle Reader location 808

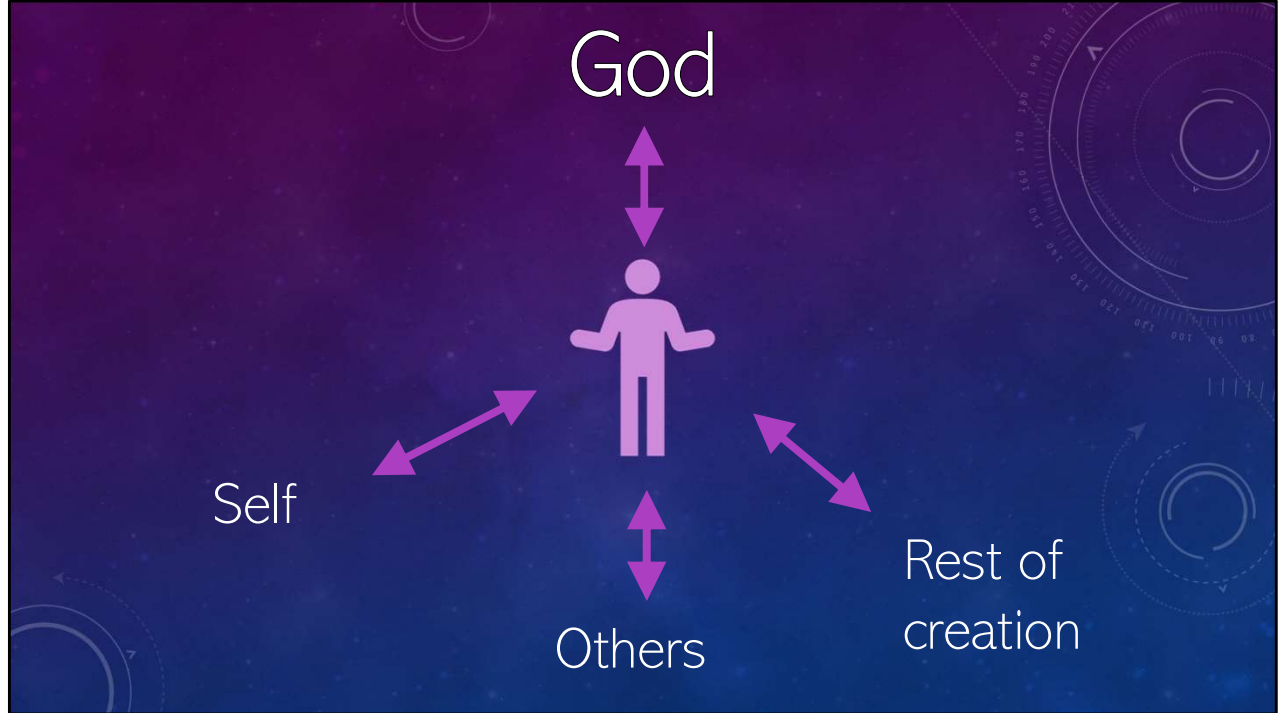
| What NA audience thinks of poverty | What the poor thinks of poverty |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lack of material | Shame |
| | Humiliation |
| | Inferiority |
| | Powerlessness |
| | Social isolation |
| | Voicelessness |

When the poor speaks, it associate lack of material with condition in far more psychological and social terms than NA audience

- Poor people talk in terms of shame, inferiority, powerlessness, humiliation, fear, hopelessness, depression, social isolation, and voicelessness
- NA audience emphasize a lack of material things such as food, money, clean water, medicine, house etc.
- A mismatch between many outsiders' perceptions of poverty and the perceptions of poor people

themselves can have devastating consequences for
poverty-alleviation efforts

Source: When Helping Hurts – Kindle Reader location 899
& 1017



4 relationships building blocks to life

- when they are functioning properly, humans experience the fullness of life that God intended because we are being what God created us to be

- when these relationships are functioning properly, people are able to fulfill their callings of glorifying God by working and supporting themselves and their families with the fruit of that work

1. Relationship with God

Calling – created to serve and give praise to our Creator

through our thoughts, words, and actions

2. Relationship with self

- people are uniquely created in the image of God and have inherent worth and dignity

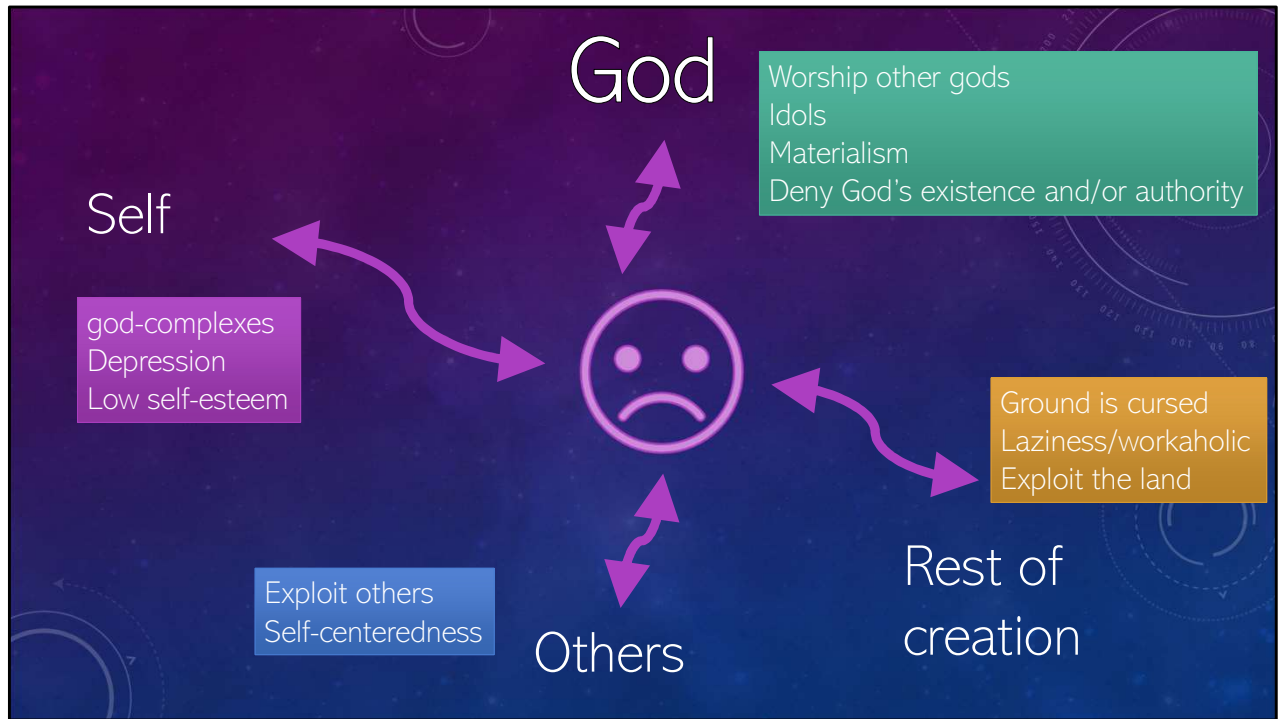
3. Relationship with others

- God created us to live in loving relationship with others

4. Relationship with Creation

- cultural mandate (Gen 1:28-30)

Source: When Helping Hurts – Kindle Reader location 899

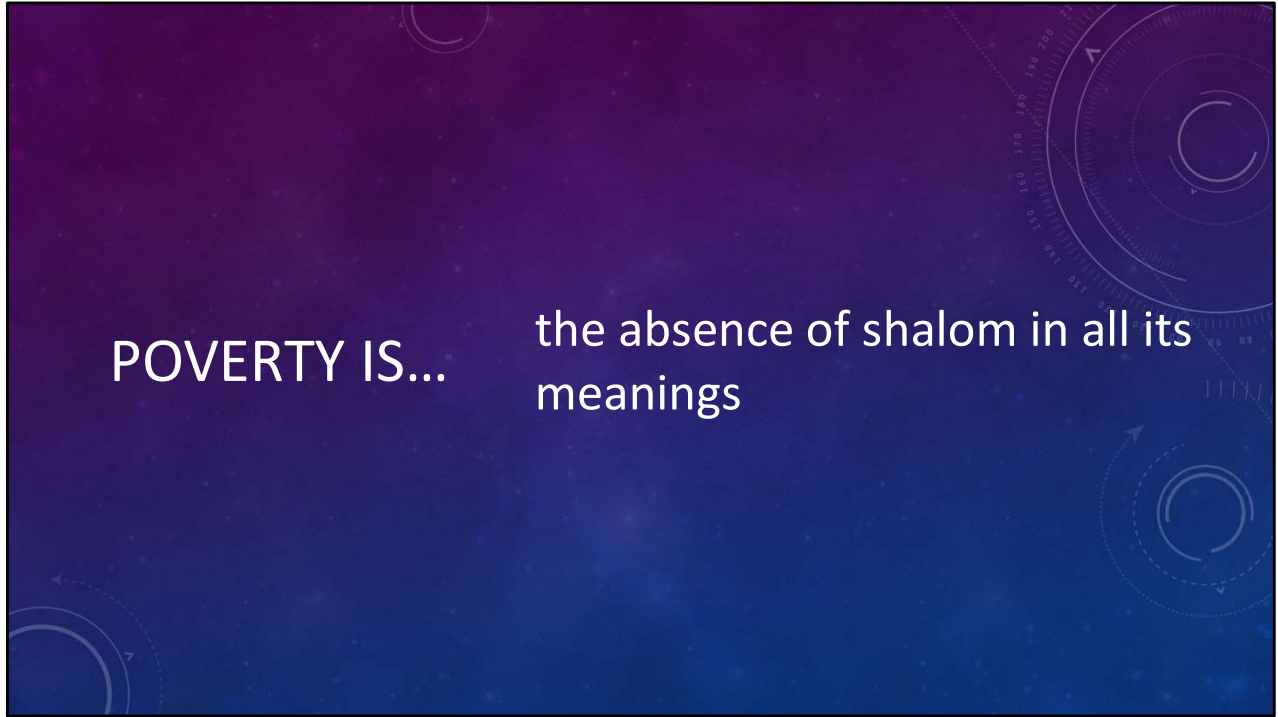


Source: When Helping Hurts – Kindle Reader location 970

POVERTY IS...

the result of relationships that do not work, that are not just, that are not for life, that are not harmonious or enjoyable

Source: When Helping Hurts – Kindle Reader location 970



Source: When Helping Hurts – Kindle Reader location 970

IMAGE OF GOD


Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

- Genesis 1:26

We are all created in the image of God

Poverty keep us from expressing the fullness of the image of God

Our job is to help restore the image of God in others



2. WHY WE SHOULD HELP THE POOR

GOD HAS A SPECIAL HEART
FOR THOSE WHO ARE POOR
AND DESTITUTE

STRANGERS, WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

21 "Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.

22 "Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. 23 If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. 24 My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless.

- Exodus 22:21-24 (NIV)

STRANGERS, WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

- Jeremiah 22:3 (NIV)

STRANGERS, WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

Learn to do right; seek justice.

Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless;

plead the case of the widow.

- Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)

REAL RELIGION

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

- James 1:27 (NIV)

GOD CARES FOR THE POOR

- Nehemiah 5 – rich exploiting the poor
- Parable of the Good Samaritan

PAUL'S CRITERIA FOR WIDOWS

- 60+
- Faithful to husband
- Good deeds – bringing up children, hospitable, help others etc.
- Not helped by anyone else

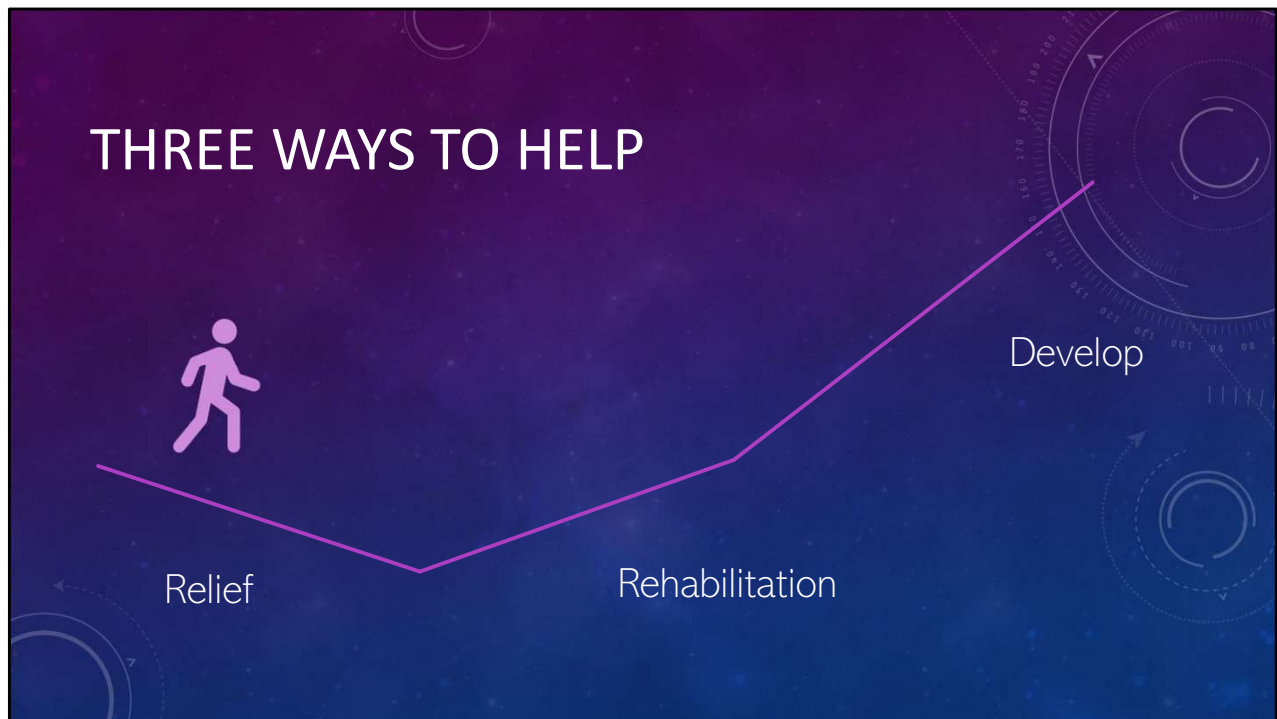
GOD COMPLEXES

One of the biggest problems in many poverty-alleviation efforts is that their design and implementation exacerbates the poverty of being of the economically rich – their god-complexes – and the poverty of being of the economically poor – their feelings of inferiority and shame

Source: When Helping Hurts – Kindle – Location 1026



3.HOW SHOULD WE HELP THE POOR?



Source: When Helping Hurts – Kindle – Location 1603

Relief – incapable of helping himself at that time

- Good Samaritan's bandaging of the helped man
- Rare to face relief

Rehabilitation done as soon as the bleeding stops

- Seek to restore people and their communities to the positive
- Dynamic of working with the tsunami victims as they

participate in their own recovery

Development

- ongoing change that moves all the people involved – both the “helpers” and the “helped”
- closer to being in right relationship with God, self, others, and the rest of creation
- As the materially poor develop, they are better able to fulfill their calling of glorifying God by working and supporting themselves and their families with the fruits of that work
- Not done to people or for people but with people (relationship!)

One of the biggest mistakes that NA churches make –is in applying relief in situations which rehabilitation or development is the appropriate intervention

DISCUSSION – DANIEL THE BIBLE SCHOOL SUPERVISOR

- Ministered with very little or no income
- Mom has AIDS and need help
- Getting married soon – requires a lot of money
- Ask you for help

WHAT DO YOU DO?



















RESTORING/REDEEMING

- Four Relationships (God, self, others, creation)
- Dignity
- Them into the image of God

SOME THOUGHTS

- PRAY – seek the Holy Spirit!
- Don't always give
- Build relationship
- Focus on long-term, don't rush
- Focus to help the person grow
- If possible, evaluate (long term or later)
- Don't be the savior
- Work yourself out of the job
- Make sure the receiving end has responsibility for their own actions

NEXT WEEK: MONEY, PRAYER AND SUPPORT

- Need to do some reading before hand
- Write to cliff.tam@gmail.com for any questions, suggestions, and thoughts!
- Feedback at bit.ly/audienceofonefeedback