



Eyes to See

Reflecting God's Love
To A World In Need

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Introduction

How to Use this Small Group Guide

Welcome to the Eyes to See small group guide! We are so excited that you have chosen to go on this journey as a small group to see poverty through God's eyes and take steps in your everyday lives to reflect God's love to a world in need.

Watch | Access the 15-20 minute Eyes to See Films at www.eyestosee.ca. These Films will drive a significant part of your discussion.

Reflect | These questions are designed to get the group talking about what stands out to them from the Films and readings, and to share and discuss their thoughts, agreements, disagreements and discoveries. This is the time to dive deep into scripture and examine what the Bible tells us about poverty and how the Church can respond.

Respond | These questions are designed to take the discussion into everyday life. How can this week's discussion be applied and lived out? How does it change or shape how we lead our lives?

Pray | A prayer list is provided to guide your group in a time of prayer as you close.

At-Home Challenge | These activities and applications are for the group to try throughout the week. They are specifically designed to give those not following along with the daily Eyes to See readings a way to learn more and apply these discussions in everyday life.

We are praying that this experience is a fruitful time of learning, growth, challenge and application for your small group!

Be sure to visit www.eyestosee.com for additional Eyes to See resources.

Seeing God

There is so much need around the world and in our own country, and so many competing ideas of how to respond. But God hasn't left us adrift without a guide. This week, we'll explore how the Bible reveals God's heart for the poor, and His plan to restore hearts and lives through the actions of His people.

Setting the Scene

God has a heart for the poor. This is revealed to us in the Bible and exemplified to us in the life of Jesus. As the Church, it is our calling to follow Christ's example in living out God's heart for the poor. Jesus founded only one institution while on earth—the Church—and it is His only plan for advancing His Kingdom.

Read

Luke 4:18-19 Matthew 28:18-20

Watch

"Week Three: Seeing God" Film

Reflect

- Many passages in the Bible tell us about God's heart for the poor, showing that He is a God of justice, mercy and compassion (i.e.

Leviticus 23:22, Isaiah 58, Micah 6:8). How familiar are you with this part of God's character? What parts of God's character are you more familiar with? Less familiar with? Why do you think that is?

- How do you think Israel felt while waiting for their promised King? Can you relate to this waiting or doubting in your own life experiences?
- What do Jesus' mission (as proclaimed by him in Luke 4:18-19), life, and actions tell us about God's character? In what ways did Jesus exemplify the upside-down life that we talked about last week?
- The Church is God's only plan to advance His Kingdom here on earth—there is no plan B. How does this change, inform or shape your opinion or view of church?

Respond

- How would you respond to someone who questions God's goodness, justice, compassion and mercy in light of all the brokenness, suffering, poverty and injustice in the world?
- What do today's Bible passages tell us about how we should act in the world and respond to poverty and injustice as Christians and as the Church?
- In what ways are local churches uniquely and best positioned to respond to the needs of their communities?

- How have you seen the Church respond to poverty and injustice in Christ-like ways? In what ways has your own local church responded to poverty and injustice in the past? In what new or continuing ways do you think your church can respond?

Pray

- Praise God for His deep compassion, justice and mercy, and the ways He cares deeply for the poor and vulnerable in our world.
- Thank God for the example He sent us in His Son, Jesus.
- Ask God to grant local churches around the world strength, courage, protection and mercy as they reflect His love to those in need in their communities. Pray especially for persecuted churches, and churches who may be in economic poverty themselves, as they serve the poor in their communities.
- Pray that those who are served by churches around the world would be healed, renewed and transformed in all aspects of their lives—spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally—by the love and care shown to them by the local church.

At-Home Challenge

Visit www.operationworld.org and spend some time learning about and praying for the day's featured nation. Pray for local churches in that country as they minister to their communities.

- When you see someone in need this week, instead of rushing by, consider how you can follow the example of Jesus in responding to their need.

