

## God's love in the world?

### Three responses to global poverty

The DVD showed three different responses to global poverty. These include:

- 1. Emergency relief:** Work to save lives and reduce human suffering in emergency-affected areas of the world – often following major disasters such as floods and earthquakes.
- 2. Community development:** Work to empower communities to create long-term, sustainable improvements in areas including education, health, food, economic development, and water and sanitation.
- 3. Advocacy:** Work that seeks to change unjust systems and structures that cause poverty – a ministry of influence using persuasion, dialogue and reason to obtain change.



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**Q2.** How do you respond to the following quote? What does it suggest about ways God's people can respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable?

*"Christians shouldn't just be pulling people out of the river. We should be going upstream to find out who's pushing them in. To be neutral in a situation of injustice is to have chosen sides already. It is to support the status quo."*

– Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South Africa

**Q1.** Read the following Bible passages and discuss the different ways God has called his people to care for the needs of the poor.

- What are the different responses? What would people find challenging here?
- How might people apply some of these passages to life today – individually and as a community?

**Leviticus 19:9-10**

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.”

**Proverbs 31:8**

“Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute.”

**Proverbs 28:27**

“Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but one who turns a blind eye will get many a curse.”

**Philippians 4:6**

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

**1 John 3:16-18**

“We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”