

**1day**  
so every child has family

*church  
conference  
2024*

**1:1 project**



# Meeting Needs, Honoring Dignity, and Empowering Those We Serve

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# Outline

## Part One

- **A Biblical Framework**

## Part Two

- **Common Helping Dynamics**

## Part Three

- **Principles for Helping Without Hurting**


Part One

# A Biblical Framework


Discussion Question

- **What is poverty?**
- **Make a list of words that come to mind when you think of poverty.**


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




“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.”




“I feel ashamed standing before my children when I have nothing to help feed the family. I’m not well when I’m unemployed.”



“During the past two years we have not celebrated any holidays with others. We cannot afford to invite anyone to our house and we feel uncomfortable visiting others without bringing a present. The lack of contact leaves one depressed, creates a constant feeling of unhappiness, and a sense of low self-esteem.”



“When one is poor, she has no say in public, she feels inferior.”



Discussion Question:

**Do you see any difference between how you described poverty and how the poor describe their own poverty?**







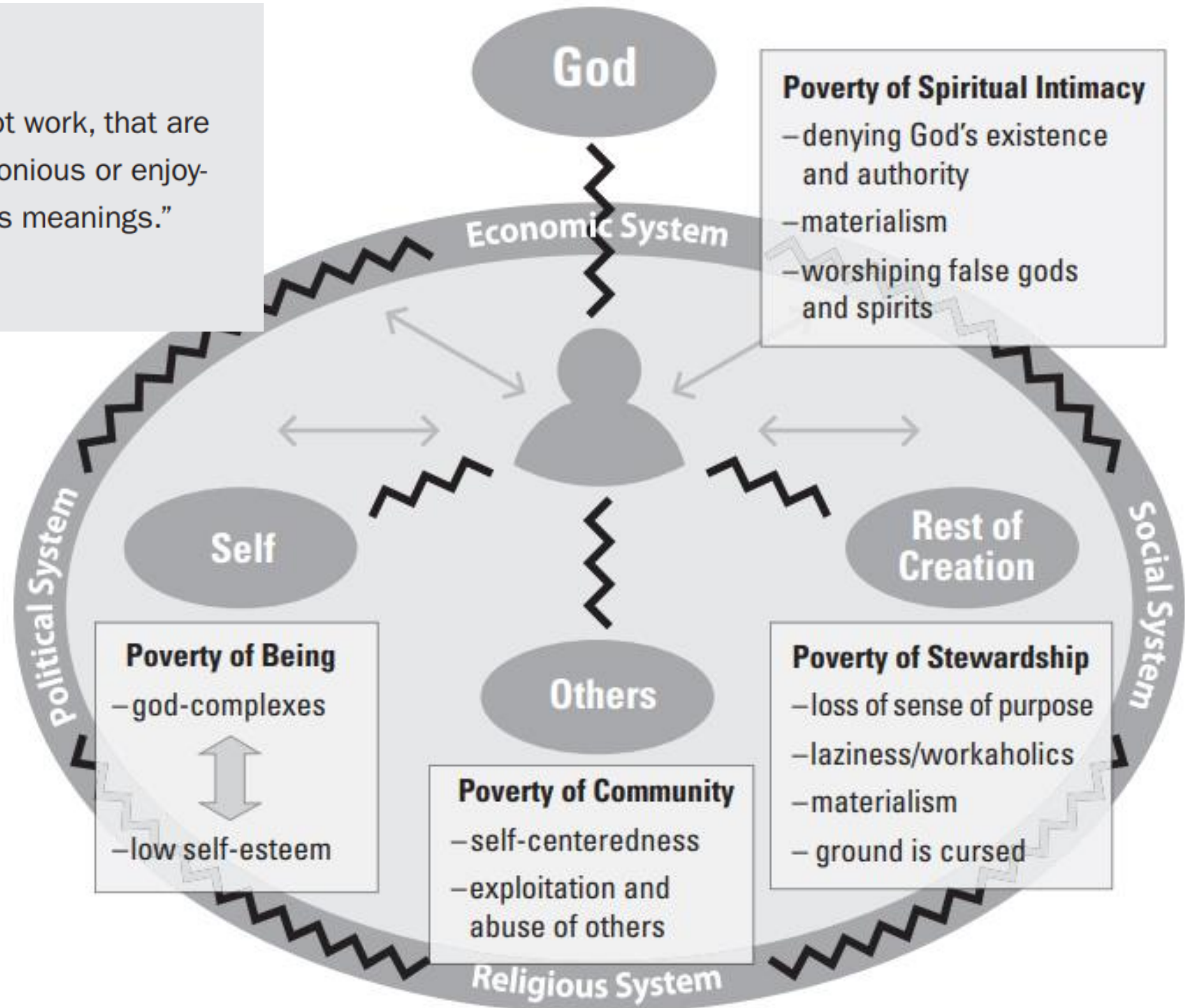
Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/149048119>



## POVERTY

“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. Poverty is the absence of shalom in all its meanings.”

—**Bryant Myers**, *Walking with the Poor*<sup>2</sup>





## Personal Reflection:

Of the four types of poverty, can you identify any areas of poverty in your own four key relationships?

- Poverty of spiritual intimacy (God)
- Poverty of being (Self)
- Poverty of community (Others)
- Poverty of stewardship (Creation)



## Biblical Framework

We are broken people serving broken people

We are people made in the image of God meeting people made in the image of God

Jesus died to put into right relationship ALL that He created

## Colossians 1:20

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself ALL things...”

We serve:

- **Because this work represents what God did for us**

(1 John 4:19; Ephesians 1:4-5; John 13:14-15)

- **Not to earn good standing or accolades**

(Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:21)

- **As a response of worship**

(Romans 12; Psalm 145; Matthew 25:35-40)





## Part Two

# Common Helping Dynamics

### Personal Reflection:

- **Why do you want to help the poor?  
Consider *all* your motives (altruistic or not)  
and make an exhaustive list.**



**Haves**

**Us**

**Benefactor**

**Superior**

**God Complexes**

**Pride**

**Have nots**

**Them**

**Beneficiary**

**Inferior**

**Low Self-Esteem**

**Shame**

**Material  
Definition  
of Poverty**

**+**

**God-  
Complexes  
of Materially  
Non-Poor**

**+**

**Feelings of  
Inferiority of  
Materially  
Poor**

**=**

**Harm to Both  
Materially Poor  
and Non-Poor**

# **PATERNALISM**

Doing things for others that they can do for themselves.



## Part Three

# Principles for Helping without Hurting

Discussion Topic:

- **Share about a time there was evidence of a god-complex or paternalism in the approach of your church's ministry to the materially poor.**

**Instead of...**

**Projects and products**

**What can I bring you?**

**Needs-based approach**

**Bringing God to the poor**

**Doing for**

**Relationship**

**People and processes**

Philippians 1:6

**How can I connect with you?**

Luke 11:42

**Asset-based approach**

1 Corinthians 12:11; Mark 6:38

**Appreciating God in the poor**

Matthew 25:40; Colossians 1:17

**Doing with**

1 Corinthians 12:26

**Meaningful Connection**

Hebrews 13:2

# Reflective Exercise:

**You respond to this request on CarePortal:**

"This request is for a single mother of two kids who are in the foster care system. Mom has been working hard to regain custody of her children. One of the items she needs to reunify is a set of bunk beds so that her children will have a place to sleep. Mom is working full-time but the pay is minimal, and she used the money she had saved up to put a security deposit down on the apartment. Providing a bunk bed will alleviate some of the financial and mental stress this mother feels as she continues to work hard to reunify with her children."

**What are your initial thoughts after reading this request?**

You call and make arrangements with Mom to bring the bunk beds to the home. You can hear the hesitance in her voice about having you come to the home, but she does not have a way to get the bunk beds otherwise. When you arrive at the home, you see a giant TV and a recliner in the living room.





# Reflection Questions:

- What might your thoughts be based on what you see?
- How could the temptation to judge a family's TV cause harm in this situation?
- What do you think the mom might feel when strangers walk into her apartment?
- How could you affirm or what could you do to show honor and help dispel feelings of shame or judgment?

----- *Now read the story of this situation from the mom's perspective* -----

- Does this story change any of your previous thoughts about mom and her apartment?
- What do you think God's heart is for this mom?
- In many families' situations, we may never learn the whole story. How do you think God wants us to approach each situation?



# Best Practices in Honoring Dignity

- The Golden Rule
- Look for commonalities
- Pay attention to your unspoken language
- Be willing to say, "Yes!"
- Look for ways to employ strengths
- Prop up the primary caregiver(s)
- Refrain from taking photos
- Share stories carefully



# Resources for Continuing Education

- The Chalmer's Center
  - *When Helping Hurts*
  - *Becoming Whole*
  - *Do Benevolence Better*
- ThinkTank-inc.org
  - *Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE)*
- *Strong and Weak* by Andy Crouch

# 1day 1night

so every child has family of 1,000 lights

*see ya'll  
tonight!*



SCAN TO FILL  
OUT OUR POST-  
BREAKOUT SURVEY

**1.1.1 project**