



Small Group Study Guide for Getting Our Arms Around the World Making a **GLOBAL IMPACT** “HEAD, heart, hands”

March 18, 2007

Open Up

Together as a group, compile a list of different charitable causes that plead for our dollars: illness-related; poverty; educational needs; culture and fine arts; etc. Tell your group which kind you have supported in the past and/or are likely to support in the future, and why.

Dig In

(1) Read Ezekiel 34:11-12 and Matthew 9:35-38 and John 10:11-15.

What do these verses tell us about the Good Shepherd's love of for hurting people? How much (or how little) are we stirred by the same passionate emotions as the Good Shepherd? (2) Read John 11:17-27 and Job 1:18-19 and Job 2:3-10. If you have ever been angry with God for allowing suffering, you are not alone - throughout the Bible God's people have vented their frustration when life's wrongs have seemed too much. Beyond the constructive words of Job and Jesus, what attitude do they display to those who are angry with God? How does their example affect how we help those who are angry with God? (3) Read Genesis 37:33-35 and John 11:28-36. If you have ever been heartbroken when too tragedy has struck, you are not alone - God's people throughout the Bible have wept because our imperfect world has pains that the Creator did no intend when he designed us. Loving others makes us vulnerable to hurt – is it worth it? What is the alternative to caring for people? (4) Read John 11:37-45 and Matthew 17:14-20. How do these verses remind us that even a seemingly impossible problem is not beyond God's power?

Work On

What factors lead to our numbness to aching needs like the AIDS pandemic in Africa? What steps can we take to restore the compassion we should feel for those who are suffering?

Lift Up

Let the promise of the healing of the nations found in Revelation 22:1-2 bring joy to your prayer time. Ask the Spirit to be stirring your heart for how you can be part of the healing that God wants to bring to sorrows on the other side of the world or next door.

Another Step

MCC's Resource Center has several books recommended by pastor Ben Cachiaras: *Too Small Too Ignore* by Wess Stafford and Dean Merrill; *The AIDS Crisis: What We Can Do* by Deborah Dortzbach and Meredith Long; and *Skeptics Guide to Global AIDS Crisis* Dale Bourke