

# Human suffering: How can I show I care?

## opening our eyes

**Reflect** on the previous session on the environment and share what you've been thinking about or doing since then.

**Warm-up question:** With all the needs and suffering we are exposed to directly or through TV appeals and charity letters, what draws you to respond to some and not to others?

## finding our hope

In the beginning  
created the  
and the

**Bible discussion** (20 mins):  
Luke 10:46-52

Today, global interconnectivity and technology give us continuous access to almost the whole world and the world's problems. We can easily feel overwhelmed and can sometimes doubt that we can do anything that will really make a difference. This is why the prophetic hope that another world is possible is so important. We can't address all the suffering in our world, but we believe that God is at work and that he will ultimately transform all things for good. We see this hope at work in the life of Jesus. In his encounters with those who were sick, hungry, socially marginalised and grieving, Jesus was moved to compassion and action, as in this passage where he heals a blind man.

### Discuss:

- What can we learn from how Jesus responds to someone in need?
- Jesus and the prophets before him remind us of the hope that another world is possible. To follow Jesus in prophetic mission is to wrestle with the tension that a new world – the kingdom of God – arrived in the person of Jesus, as we can see in the healing of the blind man, yet we must wait until he returns to experience it fully. In what way have you experienced this tension?



### DVD film and discussion: Session five (30 mins)

In this clip, Ann-Marie Wilson and John Wheatley reflect on their encounters with people who are suffering. You might like to make a mental note (or jot down reminders) of any words or ideas that you find particularly striking so you can discuss them with the group.

# loving God's world



In what practical ways are you already responding to human suffering? Are there other ways you might like to further respond? There are some suggested activities in the course guide.

## For next week

Use this space to write down anything your group commits to do to prepare for the next session.

## Prayer

Lord

There are no easy answers,  
no quick-fix solutions to the pain and suffering of this world.  
And yet, we trust.

We trust that you are with us.

We trust that you will always be with us.

You did not choose to take us out of the world  
but you promise to protect us from the evil one.

Lord, consecrate us again to your truth.

Send us out again to share your gospel,  
to respond to others with grace and love and mercy  
even when we cannot know what to do,  
so that lives may be transformed.

Consecrate us, Lord, and unite us as your people –  
A people of mission. A people of light. A people of love.

Amen

(Prayer from 40 Days of Yes)



*The call in action*