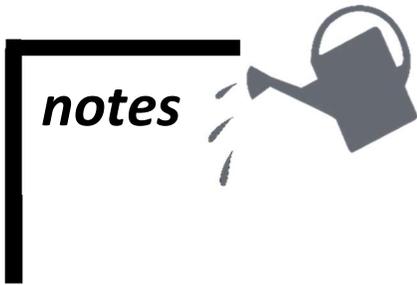


SESSION 4: Poverty awareness

✦ Gathering Tools

The purpose of Session 4 is to encourage us to consider poverty, perhaps in a different way. We know it's not a one-size-fits-all experience, and we believe that understanding what it might be like to walk in someone else's shoes will help us be more effective in building real relationships and walking alongside others in their journey.



✦ The “hand” that reminds us of the different types of poverty.

- Thumb – physical (helps with activities)
- Pointer – spiritual (points the way)
- Middle – emotional
- Ring – mental / cognitive
- Pinky – financial (smallest to remind us finances aren't the *only* type of poverty)
- Palm – bridging (people we know who can help us with resources) and bonding (friends, family) social capital

Harvest [wrapping it all up]

A Non-traditional Blessing

ONE: May God bless you with discontent with easy answers, half-truths, superficial relationships, so that

ALL: we will live from deep within our hearts.

ONE: May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, abuse, and exploitation of people, so that

ALL: we will work for justice, equality, and peace.

ONE: May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that

ALL: we will reach out our hands to comfort them and to change their pain to joy.

ALL: May God bless us with the foolishness to think we can make a difference in this world, so that we will do the things that others tell us cannot be done. Amen.

Modified from <http://www.thesacredbraid.com/2016/07/22/a-non-traditional-blessing/>

Sowing seeds forward

This week, make it a point to serve – either through your church or a local organization, or if that's not possible, reach out to an elderly neighbor, someone who is homebound, call a friend you've not spoken with in a while... whatever it may be.