



CONNECT WITH GOD'S
HEART FOR THE WORLD



FREE METHODIST WORLD MISSIONS

YOUTH LEADER'S GUIDE

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For the Leader: *SEED, the micro-enterprise ministry of Free Methodist World Missions, stands for Sustainable Empowerment through Economic Development. Essentially, we partner with Free Methodist churches around the world to help groups of people – either their congregants or others in their communities – create sustainable living-wage opportunities. This activity focuses on the Empowerment part of our work.*

Opening Activity (15-20 minutes)

Choose one:

- Divide group into smaller groups (3-5 people). Give them 5-10 minutes to list all the jobs they can think of that are mentioned in the Bible. Give a prize to the group that generates the most occupations.
- As the large group, hold up one SEED product (or any product commonly found in a retail store) and ask the group to name all the jobs it took to get the product from its originating country to the room where you are.

Transcribe the list on a white board / flip chart if possible – the visual effect is pretty amazing.

Activity wrap-up: Isn't it amazing how many jobs there are out there, and how they are all so interconnected?



Leader's Note

These jobs could include:

- The jobs to produce the materials to make the product (farmer, sheep raiser, yarn spinner, dyer, etc.)
- The jobs to make the product (weaver, machinist, carver, etc.)
- The jobs required to transport the product (pilot, oil-rig operator to produce the gas/oil, carrier, import/export, etc.)
- The jobs required to get the product to you (buyer, distributor, stocker, salesperson, etc.)



Free Methodist World Missions

Introduction (5 minutes)

Recent research says that before today's youth retire they will have an average of 13 different careers. Not jobs, but careers: sales, administration, computer programming, training, construction ... you name it. Yet somehow we expect youth at 18 or 22 to know exactly what they want to do with their lives. Instead, we should focus on faithfulness to God and following where He leads.

Say: A ministry of the Free Methodist Church, SEED Livelihood Network, partners with groups around the world to help them create their own sustainable businesses. **SEED** stands for **Sustainable Empowerment through Economic Development**. Many people contact SEED asking, "Can you have a group make [a certain item]?" Instead, SEED always focuses on what the livelihood groups want to do rather than what we think is a good idea for them. This is the first "E" in our acronym: Empowerment. And that will also be more Sustainable, the "S."



Video (6 minutes)

Say: We're going to watch a brief video explaining SEED, and then one more about one of the groups SEED has helped.

Show: "What is SEED?" - <https://vimeo.com/84428478> (or search the Vimeo account for another vision-related video you might show: "Complete Transformations," "The Dignity of Work," etc.)

Ask: What is one thing you like about SEED's focus from that video? What is one question you have about SEED?

Show Livelihood Group Video: "Amparo Swine Project" - <https://vimeo.com/101951701>

Say: The Amparo Swine Project started because a group of women in the church needed a way to generate income to support their families with shelter, food and school fees. God had brought a woman, Inday (pronounced "in-dye"), to the church who grew up raising pigs and then worked for the government training people to raise pigs. In the Philippines, roast pig, called *lechon* (pronounced "lay-chawn"), is a central part of any celebration like a wedding or graduation; so pig raising was an excellent business idea. Because of Inday's expertise, this group already had a terrific business plan and just needed some startup funds, which SEED was able to provide. Now eight families receive ongoing income from the swine production.

Bible Study (15 minutes)

Read Isaiah 55.1-2, then ask the following questions:

- Who is speaking here? What does He invite people to do in verse 1?
- How can we buy things with no money?
- In what ways do we spend money on what is not bread and labor on what does not satisfy?
- From verse 2, how does God explain how we can buy food and drink without money? Does this remind you of any other Scripture passages?



Leader's Note: Jesus' temptation about "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"

It is not true that God's primary purpose is for us to be happy: His primary purpose is that He be glorified and that we become more and more like Him. But it is also true that He has created each of us with gifts and abilities, and He has led us – when we follow – into and through circumstances that provide us experience for what He wants to do with us in the future. This passage is an important reminder not to waste those skills, those gifts and those experiences.

Let's commit ourselves to discovering who God has made us to be, to not spending our time and energy on things that are a waste of time, and to living by listening to what God desires for us. That is true empowerment.

Pray