



YEAR 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 2: Genesis Part 2

Communal Experience: Helping the Oppressed

EXPERIENCE DESCRIPTION

Lesson 4 of this module focused in on the story of Joseph. As we read in Genesis 39-47, Joseph experienced many ups and downs of life. In fact, one could say there were more downs than ups. However, despite the circumstances Joseph stayed true to God and became a blessing to others.

During Joseph's life he encountered assault, slavery, sexual harassment, and false imprisonment. Each day millions of people are oppressed in some shape and form. Some oppression is a result of people's own choices or actions; others experience oppression because of the actions of others. Regardless of the reason, these people need to encounter God through those who are in relationship with Him. They need to see the care of Christ and that there is hope that is found in God.

In this communal experience your group will touch the lives of the oppressed.

EXPERIENCE DIRECTIONS

Before you begin this experience, be sure your group understands that we do not "target" people who we feel sorry for so that we can help them and make ourselves feel better. Rather, we are called by God to reach out to others with His love and grace. The purpose of this communal experience is to help raise awareness of the oppressed in our world and open the door for the people of God to reach out to the oppressed with mercy and compassion.

Begin by asking your group to take time to think about a group who they would consider oppressed. Then, select a group of people who your group will reach out to, using the following steps below:

1. **Get informed.** Do research on this specific group. How are they oppressed? What are their needs? In what ways can your group reach out to them?
2. **Speak up.** After becoming informed, tell people about it. Present a class at your church. Tell people about it at school, work, and so on. Don't be silent. Speak up for those who can't speak up for themselves. Make others aware.
3. **Raise Money.** Plan, organize, and execute a fundraising initiative and give the money to these people in ways that will go directly to helping meet their needs.
4. **Act.** Plan a time to go as a group and minister to the needs of this specific group. This may be a one-time event, or an ongoing ministry outreach.
5. **Talk.** Followup by talking about the experience as a group. What did they learn from this experience?
6. **Look.** You may consider looking for other opportunities to help the oppressed in your community.