

A large, stylized sunburst graphic in shades of yellow and gold, radiating from the top left, behind the ampersand and the first part of the title.

HOMELESS & HUNGRY

Oct 15-16, 2011



**Small Group
Holy Ground
Reflection
& Prayer**

How to use this booklet

Small Group time-

Gather together to share, discuss, and wrestle with this experience. What is calling each of us to do? How can you make a difference? Bring your Bible, your pen, your attention and your best attitude.

Holy Ground-

This is your personal time with God. Find a spot away from others, grab your Bible and pen and spend time in Bible reading and prayer. Silence is a MUST!

Small Group #1

- Share your name and what you ate for your last meal.
- Why did you decide to participate in Homeless and Hungry?
- What worries you the most about the next two days?
- Why are people homeless?
- What does “poverty” mean to you?
- Do you think homeless people should just “get a job”?
- Do you think that by the end of tomorrow you will have a new understanding of what it means to be hungry?
- How do you think God wants us to react to the problems of homelessness and hunger?

Pray together as a group-

Dear Lord, We thank you for this opportunity to walk in someone else’s shoes. Keep us safe throughout this event. Give us insight, open hearts and open minds. Help us to be changed by this experience. Help us to know how to be your hands and feet in this world. We pray especially for those who today are homeless and hungry. Cover them with your love and grace. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Head to “Holy Ground”

Holy Ground #1

Pray: Focus yourself on God and ask Him to give you ears to hear his voice.

Confession: Confess to God anything weighing on your heart. Confess your lack of care for the homeless and hungry people of this world.

Read: 1 John 1:8-9 (NOT the Gospel of John) and know that you are forgiven.

Read: John 15: 9-17 (This one IS the Gospel!)

What does God Command?

Consider what it means for you to love all people.

Listen: Now just stop talking at God, and let yourself be moved to a point of listening. Embrace silence in and around yourself.

Pray: That you would abide in Christ, so that he might abide in you.

Small Group #2— evening

- What did you think of Jay Bakker?
- What did he say that stuck with you?
- What do you know now that you did not know at noon today?
- Are you hungry yet?
- How does it feel to not be able to run to the kitchen?
- How do you think it feels for a parent to not have any food to give their child?
- Are you nervous about sleeping in the box?
- Do you have a better understanding of how blessed you are to have a home and food?
- What is your responsibility as someone who has been blessed so greatly?

Pray—Ask one person to pray this prayer. Stand and join hands.

Dear God, We're getting hungry and we are starting to understand. There are many things we don't fully understand about why people are homeless and hungry, but we know you call us to help. Help us know what to do.

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Holy Ground— evening

Pray: Ask the Living God to fill your heart, soul, and mind as you spend this time with him.

Think: Some of you may have heard the saying ‘look before you leap.’ The unfortunate truth is that most of the world also follows the saying ‘look before you love.’ Jesus abolishes this saying. He commands us simply to love our neighbor; every other human being on the planet, including the homeless man on the corner. Can you imagine if Jesus would have been choosy with his love as he died on the cross? God is love. Praise the God of love.

Listen: Close your eyes and listen for God’s voice. Clear your mind and listen. What thoughts come?

Pray: Just pray. God is listening.

Small Group #3— morning

- How was your night?
- Talk about how it must be like to do this every night.
- What emotions are running through you now? (Hunger is not an emotion!)
- After a couple more hours you get to go home to a warm meal and a roof over your head. Do you feel guilty about this? Should you feel guilty?
- How do you now perceive those who struggle as homeless & hungry people?
- Are you rich or poor?
- What is our responsibility, as Christians, in helping the less fortunate?
- Your regular life is waiting for you. How can you change your life/your choices/your actions to be better for God?
- What are you most fearful of after this event?

Pray huddled up— Ask someone in your small group to lead your group in prayer.

Holy Ground— morning

Quotes to Ponder:

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.

Mother Teresa

Do not waste time bothering whether you "love" your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone you will presently come to love him. -- C. S. Lewis

Love means to love that which is unlovable; or it is no virtue at all. --G. K. Chesterton

Love isn't love until it does the work of love. — unknown

Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.

Mother Teresa

Pray: Tell God what's on your mind and ask God to make Himself known to you today. Ask Him to move in your heart and in your life to make this world a better place.