

IMPROVING HEALTH IN GUATEMALA

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MATTHEW 11:2-11 | PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE LORD

ADVENT WEEK 3 | SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022



LEARN HOW YOUR LOVE IS UNCOVERING HOPE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN GUATEMALA

With the sixth highest level of chronic malnutrition in the world, and the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean, hunger is a true crisis in Guatemala. Nearly half of children under five are stunted, during their most critical growing years. It's also a country prone to extreme weather, which devastates farming lands and leaves communities without enough income or food. Compounding this are the high levels of inequality and poverty, creating a vicious cycle of poverty. Since the 1990s, Lutheran World Relief has been working hand in hand with communities and local partners to help break the chains of poverty, supporting families to improve their health and nutrition, training farmers on environmentally sustainable practices that result in larger, higher quality crops

and teaching Guatemalans how to access sources of credit and sell their produce in larger and more profitable markets. By addressing the root causes of migration, poverty and malnutrition through a holistic approach, LWR is using your love to transform communities, uncovering resilience and thriving futures and rediscovering hope.

WATCH



lwr.org/advent3



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

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DISCUSS

1. What captured your attention in the video?
2. In what ways would your life be different if you didn't have access to clean, safe water?

3. Education is a key component of Lutheran World Relief's work in the world. In what ways did education help lead to a better life and provide hope and healing for Irma and her children?



BIBLE STUDY

As we enter the penultimate week of Advent, our collective anticipation for the incarnation and the expected joy of celebrating Christ can cloud us from being

present in our current surroundings, from seeing God in our current preparatory status.

In Matthew's gospel this week we are reunited with John and his disciples, who despite having baptized Jesus and seemingly being aware of his divinity have doubts of Jesus as Messiah, asking: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

John who had been sent to prepare the way for the Lord, and indeed has baptized the Lord, is left seeking clarification as to the Lord's mission. Jesus' response to this question is simply to recount the impact of his ministry thus far, with a command to John's messengers: "Go tell John what you hear and see." With the messengers satisfied, Jesus goes on to offer praise to John, who remains in prison. Understanding that many of those in the crowd had sought out John's teachings, Jesus asks: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at?" Read together **Matthew 11:2-11**.

1. What captured your attention in the Bible reading?
2. What do you think the messengers from John expected to see when they came to Jesus? What do you think John expected them to see?
3. Jesus tells John's messengers to "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." When have you witnessed this kind of healing? When have you received this kind of healing? When have you shared the news of this kind of healing?



Because of your generosity, Estuardo and Cecilia, two of Irma's children, are able to drink filtered water in their family's kitchen.

4. For both John's followers and Irma's community, hope is found in an unexpected place, after being lost or forgotten. What are some hopes of yours, that looking back, have been buried? How has God's grace or a neighbor's love helped you rediscover lost hope you have lost?



PRAY

God of perpetual presence, calm our minds, renew our hearts, and remove the barriers from our eyes so that we may not cloud ourselves from you with our own desires and expectations. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.



SHARE YOUR LOVE

During this Advent season, we not only wait to celebrate the birth of Christ coming into the world, but we look forward to the day when Christ will return, and all will be made right. When you help our neighbors, like Irma, through a partnership with Lutheran World Relief, you provide glimpses of the world that is yet to come. As we wait, you can participate in God's promised future today by sharing your love with neighbors like Irma. Visit lwr.org/hope to make your gift and be a light in the darkness for someone in need.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

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