MEETING SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL NEEDS

As the church works to help people living in poverty, it is important to balance meeting physical and spiritual needs. Physical needs are necessities for survival, such as food and water. Spiritual needs include access to the Bible, understanding a relationship with God, and spending time with God’s people.

Instructions: For the following items below, write P for items that are meeting physical needs and S for items that are meeting spiritual needs.

1. Leading people in singing worship songs
2. Digging a well so people can access clean water
3. Organizing a canned food drive for people to donate food
4. Asking for prayer requests then leading a prayer
5. Reading and discussing the Bible with people
6. Bringing medical supplies and vitamins to people
7. Sharing the good news of Jesus
8. Giving out blankets and jackets for warmth

TUG-OF-WAR

Instructions: In the game tug-of-war, a rope is pulled in opposite directions. Read the Bible passages below and circle which side gets tugged in a conversation about delivering hope. The first one has already been done for you.

9. James 2:15-16 “If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

   PHYSICAL NEED   SPIRITUAL NEED

10. Luke 3:11 “And [Jesus] answered them, ‘Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.’

   PHYSICAL NEED   SPIRITUAL NEED

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11. **Matthew 6:33**  
“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

**PHYSICAL NEED**  

**SPIRITUAL NEED**

12. **James 2:5**  
“Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He has promised to those who love Him?”

**PHYSICAL NEED**  

**SPIRITUAL NEED**

13. **John 4:14**  
“...but whoever drinks of the water that [Jesus] will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that [Jesus] will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

**PHYSICAL NEED**  

**SPIRITUAL NEED**

14. **1 John 3:17-18**  
“If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

**PHYSICAL NEED**  

**SPIRITUAL NEED**

15. **John 6:27**  
“Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.”

**PHYSICAL NEED**  

**SPIRITUAL NEED**

16. **Matthew 6:25**  
“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

**PHYSICAL NEED**  

**SPIRITUAL NEED**
DELINEERING HOPE

Instructions: Read this quote from Greg Barshaw, founder of Connect 2 Ministries, then answer questions 17 and 18:

“How do I come to you and talk to you about Jesus when […] you haven’t eaten in three days? You won’t be able to deal with the issues of the heart if your physical body is in need. So how do we meet the physical needs so that the heart becomes open? Food becomes part of that and medicine becomes part of that. Now you’re beginning to minister to the entire person, and now it opens access to talk about the soul.”

- Greg Barshaw, Connect 2 Ministries in Haiti

17. What do you think Greg means when he says that food and medicine “opens access to talk about the soul?”

18. When people deliver hope to those living in poverty, there are various views of the best way to help. How can one deliver hope in a way that meets both their physical and spiritual needs?