



Using these conversation prompts and this activity, guide your small group through Luke 12:29-34 and make connections to needs in your local community and the world. Consider ways in which small groups can engage in fundraising to prepare an offering for UMCOR Sunday. This offering is important because it covers the administrative needs of the United Methodist Committee on Relief so that when disasters occur, 100% of donations are directed to where they are most needed.

### SMALL-GROUP ACTIVITY: QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

In this Scripture reading, Jesus outlines different worries that people experience and suggests that worrying interferes with living abundantly in relationship with God.

- What are some worries or anxieties that you experience (that are not clinical in nature)?
- How do these worries interfere with or enhance your faith journey?
- What means of grace would help you trust more completely in God?
- Can you imagine how your life would be different if you no longer worried about these problems?

Jesus uses food and drink as examples of what not to worry about. Food insecurity, however, is a life-or-death reality for many people.

- How is food insecurity addressed in your community?
- Who are the people most vulnerable to hunger-related issues?
- How does hunger or other lack of basic needs affect a person's ability to function in the world?
- What are some ways this congregation meets or might help meet the needs of neighbors who do not have enough to eat?

Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What do you think he means by this?

- What in your life do you treasure? Do those treasures enhance your relationship with God? Why or why not?
- Do you hold onto physical items or emotional attitudes as if they are a treasure? Do they disrupt your relationship with God or with others?
- If so, how might you begin to release them to create space and orient your heart toward God?
- When a person or community experiences a disaster or crisis and loses what was previously treasured, values are often reevaluated. Talk about a time that you had a new perspective that caused you to reprioritize what was important to you.





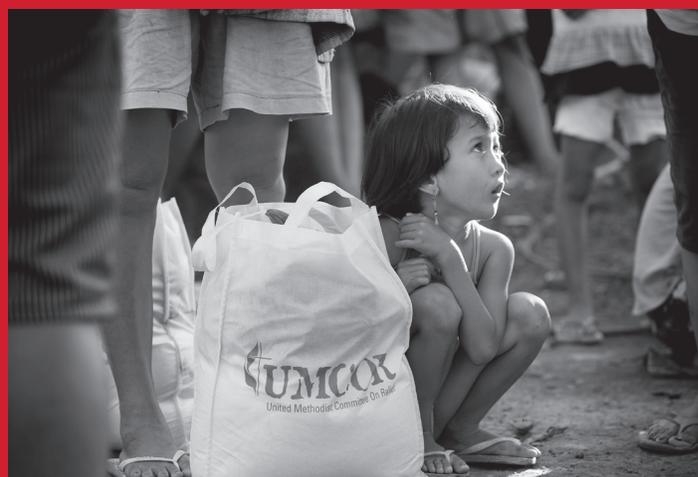
### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY: BRIGHT SPOTS

Disaster response can feel overwhelming, particularly for those in the midst of the crisis. But the business of the church is not despair. God calls us, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to bring healing and hope. For nearly 80 years, UMCOR has been a voice of conscience – a source of hopeful treasure on behalf of The United Methodist Church and its predecessors.

For this activity, assign each person a current-event situation from the UMCOR website ([www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org)) that feels overwhelming. Using the website and through other news sources, invite each person to identify signs of good news. Ask each person to share a “bright spots” report to the group from the perspective of how lives and communities are being transformed. Some examples include the people and organizations that help; survivors who have stories of courage and grace; and the ways in which people support one another.

“And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

— Luke 12:29-34, NRSV



### CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Holy God, you are faithful to us, even when we disappoint you.

Help us to trust you to lead us in ways that build up your beloved community.

Be with those who are experiencing humanitarian crisis.

Be with those who are responding to disasters.

We are bound together as sisters and brothers made in your image. May your love pour out from us in the form of food, medicine, homes, clean water, hope and grace in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

