



Jim Freeman's Story

The following information and discussion questions are designed to accompany the ELCA World Hunger Video, Jim Freeman's Story. Find the video at www.ELCA.org/hunger/resources.

INTRODUCTION TO SHARE:

Sometimes people who are hungry need more than just a meal. There are other types of hunger that people experience – a spiritual hunger, or a hunger for fellowship. Addressing multiple hungers provides an opportunity for relationship, a chance to get to know those with whom we work. In these relationships, we also have an opportunity to see God at work in the world.

Part of ELCA World Hunger's approach to addressing hunger and poverty includes relief – helping people meet their immediate needs. Relief efforts include meal programs, shelters, medical care and food pantries. Donating food or remodeling a kitchen are a couple examples of how we can participate in relief efforts, but these don't necessarily invite us into relationship with others. As church we strongly value doing work through relationships, by walking with our brothers and sisters in Christ. These relationships allow us to become more open to one another by working with people instead of for them.

This video tells the story of Jim Freeman, an 88-year-old in Spartanburg, S.C. Jim has lived alone since his wife passed away and tries to make ends meet using only his Social Security check. He receives meals and visits from Mobile Meals, a program that is partially funded by ELCA World Hunger through a Domestic Hunger Grant. In addition to food, Mobile Meals also provides an opportunity for fellowship, health checks and visits from a pastor. Participants in the program, both those who receive meals and those who organize and deliver them, have deepened relationships with one another and their relationships with God. Mobile Meals helps feed the physical and spiritual hunger of Jim and others. This is a great example of being a part of God's work through relationships!

WATCH VIDEO: Length is 6 minutes, 3 seconds

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Talk about the difference between doing something for someone and doing something with someone. How do those different prepositions suggest different attitudes? What does each mean to you, and how do/could you see the two play out in the world?
2. In a relationship mutuality is important. In other words, both parties should give and receive. Identify some of the things Jim has given and received and some things the people from Mobile Meals (Ralph, Jayne) have given and received.
3. What types of hunger do you think Jim experiences? How about the volunteers? How do you see those hungers fed?



READ 1 PETER 4: 8-11

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. This passage reminds us that relationships deserve attention. What do we know about God through the relationships we have at church, work, school and elsewhere? How do we hope God's love is revealed through us in these relationships?
2. This passage says that God should be glorified in all things, and the mission statement of Mobile Meals is to "glorify God by providing nutritious meals, services and fellowship." How does this call to glorify God affect the way you look at service?
3. We may not love everyone we meet, yet we are still called to share God's love in all our relationships "without complaining." What are some ways we can do this even when our human relationships are uncomfortable or less than perfect? (**Leader note:** *Re-read verse 11, especially the part about "whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies" after some answers are given.*)