



Virginia Quispe's Story

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

INTRODUCTION TO SHARE:

About 1.4 billion people in the world (approximately 20 percent of the total population) live in poverty – meaning that they live on less than \$1.25 a day.¹ For many of these individuals, their experiences with poverty or continual financial insecurity have a significant effect on their health and well-being. Inconsistent access to jobs or to stable income affects the ability of individuals and families to meet their needs of food, health care, education and even clean and safe water, making the cycle of poverty even more difficult to break. However, once an individual has a source of sustainable income they may be better able to allocate time and energy to meet their basic needs.

Sustainable development is a part of ELCA World Hunger's comprehensive approach that seeks to move beyond relief and helps create long-term solutions for those most affected by hunger and poverty. A portion of donations to ELCA World Hunger supports the development work of microloan programs that help individuals and families access opportunities to create sustainable sources of income. By donating funds that support microloan projects, you can help families get a fresh start or grow to reach their fullest potential in their communities. This money can be truly life-changing for families who receive it. These loans are either interest-free or below-market interest, and once they are repaid they grow the pool of funds. This allows for the microloan projects to fund loans for other individuals and families in need. In this way, an initial donation stays and is multiplied within a community.

This video tells the story of Virginia Quispe (*Key-spay*) and her family in La Paz, Bolivia. Thanks to a microloan from the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church (*Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Bolivia*), they were able to grow their business and become financially stable. Together, the ELCA and the Bolivian church are in a relationship as church with church through The Lutheran World Federation, our global communion of churches that connects and strengthens our shared work. People like Pastor Abdón in this video work closely with ELCA World Hunger and act as resources for loan recipients. In 2011 alone, the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church granted loans to over 400 families. Donations to ELCA World Hunger helped to support this work. (Leader note: Some brief information on microlending and the informal economy of Bolivia can be found on the information handout that also accompanies this video.)

WATCH VIDEO: Length is 5 minutes, 26 seconds

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. One of the things Virginia's microloan helped her do was hire other employees. Like Pastor Abdón mentioned, situations like that help multiply the loan's positive effects. Thinking about that, what kind of effect can a microloan have on a whole community? What opportunities does the increased capital provide? What improvements can be made once a whole community has a more stable economy?
2. Virginia's husband, Wilfredo, briefly mentioned their daughters toward the end of the video. Besides the increased resources that result from a more stable family income, what do you think the benefits are for children of the families who receive loans?
3. What other goals do you think Virginia and her family can work to achieve now that they can meet their basic needs with the income and savings they have?



READ JOHN 10:10 AND LUKE 6:32-36

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. We saw in the video how a loan helped Virginia's family build up savings to be able to have a new life of abundance. How can we, as congregations and as individuals, multiply Christ's love and help others live abundantly? How do we have abundance when we work together? How does Christ call us to share our abundance?
2. Just before this passage in Luke is what many people often refer to as The Golden Rule – “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” What connections do you see between this and Jesus' commandment to “expect nothing in return” (Luke 6:35)?
3. What are the great rewards Jesus is referring to? How did you see these rewards demonstrated in the video? Think of a time when you helped or supported someone else. Did you feel like you received a reward for your service? (Leader note: Use the ELCA World Hunger placemats or “Digging in: A Leader's Guide to Service Learning” to help youth reflect on and learn from the feelings they experienced as a result of service.)

ENDNOTES:

- 1 From The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012, page 7
www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/The_MDG_Report_2012.pdf