

ELEPHANTS

THINGS NOBODY WANTS TO TALK ABOUT

POVERTY – WEEK 1

Small Group Time:

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with key questions, add any optional Scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Main Idea:

Ever noticed how there are some things that are really difficult to talk about? It happens in our families, at our work, with our friends, & it most certainly happens in the church. And because things are difficult to talk about, we find ourselves constantly dancing around or avoiding those topics. Not anymore! It's time to have an open, healthy conversation about the "Elephants in the Room".

Key Questions:

1. Are there any "elephants" that you don't talk about when you're around your family or in-laws? Explain.
2. Have you ever noticed that whenever the topic of poverty arises, we start feeling a little bit guilty? Why do you think that is?
3. What are some "unfair" thoughts you've had about people who are in poverty? What are the results of these thoughts?
4. Read **Matthew 25:40** & **James 1:27**. How does God's thoughts contradict some of the thoughts you often have about poverty?
5. Ben talked about three mindsets that can change our willingness to get involved in poverty: (1) Realize I'm in poverty and need help. (2) Remember I'm only responsible for my own actions. (3) Do for one what you wish you could for everyone. Which of these 3 are most difficult for you to grasp and live out?
6. The cause of poverty is spiritual. Because of that truth, poverty is not a government problem, it's a church problem. How can the church be more active in poverty? How can you as an individual (or family) be more active in poverty (because you ARE the church)?

Next Steps:

- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?