





The Pursuit of Transformation

Introduction

In this learning expedition, students will gradually unpack physical poverty: water, health, education, economic development, and child protection. These learning plans also show how communities can become trapped in poverty, and that it takes a holistic approach to help without causing harm. The hope is that students we would feel compelled to join God in the pursuit of human flourishing by participating in the physical transformation of communities.

Foundational to Ignite, at all stages of learning, is understanding the Greatest Commandments; God's love for them and responding in love to their neighbor. All students can participate regardless of age, achievement, or ability.

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these commandments of love. They hold the key to a transformed world; thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Empowering students to deeply know God's love and act upon it leads them into the pursuit of a world transformed in right relationship.

It's an honor, as educators and adults, to help kids reach their full potential of a productive and fulfilling life; not separated from the story of God but deeply a part.

We hope that God will ignite the hearts of your students, the future leaders of the world; that they may experience their defining moments of transformation and act and re-write stories of injustice to justice, sorrow to joy, and brokenness to restoration.

This Expedition

This Learning Expedition centers around three things:

The Driving Question

How can we contribute to flourishing through physical transformation?

The Deep Hope

That we would feel compelled to join God in the pursuit of human flourishing by participating in the physical transformation of communities.

The Expedition Verse

"I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy."

—Psalm 140:12





The Pursuit of Transformation

The Structure of this Learning Expedition

Part 1: Background Knowledge

Learning plans 1–5

The first five learning plans can be considered a base or background knowledge for the rest of the expedition. They introduce the deep hope of this expedition, explore God's love and the importance of loving our neighbors, and open up the definition of poverty (as fundamentally broken relationships). These learning plans also show how communities can become trapped in poverty, and that it takes a holistic approach to help without hurting. Finally, students will interact with their sponsored child—one of the key ways that we can connect with our neighbors around the world.

Part 2: Physical Poverty and Transformation

Learning plans 6–10

These learning plans explore the heart of physical poverty and transformation. While part 1 of the expedition opens students' eyes to different aspects of poverty, this part focuses on material poverty. Each lesson touches on a different physical element: water, health, education, economic development, and child protection. World Vision also does a huge amount of work around emergency relief and Christian discipleship—these are touched on in these lessons, but can be furthered explored in the “Opportunities to Deepen Learning” section of the curriculum.

Part 3: Community Engagement Project

Learning plans 11–15

The Community Engagement project is the culmination of the unit. It is a chance for students to apply what they have learned and respond to the driving question: *How can we contribute to flourishing through physical transformation?* This expedition outlines a project where students explore the origin of their physical education clothes. What is the bigger story behind these things we use every day—and do they contribute or take away from human flourishing? The project works well in that it has both local and global ramifications as we explore the world behind a T-shirt. In the end, students will create a proposal presentation for the superintendent about which company the school should purchase their clothing from.

You should also feel empowered to do a different project around physical transformation using the structures that are in place. Some examples include:

- Exports from countries our sponsored children are from
- Cocoa harvesting
- Coffee farming
- School uniforms
- Raising money for micro-loans
- Water, health, education, economic development and child protection in your home country



The Pursuit of Transformation

Preparation

There are a few key lessons that require more preparation. In learning plan 6, students will begin designing a graphic organizer. There are a number of free websites that can be used for this project (such as Canva), and it would be helpful to familiarize yourself with one of these. In learning plan 10, students will need to print color copies of these graphic organizers to display around the room. If the school does not have a color printer, make plans to do this elsewhere. For the Community Engagement project, you will need to have arranged to talk to an “expert” that the class can meet or video conference. There are some examples of people you could connect with in learning plan 14. Finally, in learning plan 15 the students will be sharing a proposal with your superintendent (or other administrator) around which company they recommend for athletic clothing. You will need to make sure this works with his or her schedule, and that he or she is comfortable with this idea.

Further Considerations

Resources: Two key resources to build your own background knowledge are “Walking with the Poor” by Bryant Myers and “When Helping Hurts” by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett. Many of the themes and ideas of this expedition come from these resources.

Document Panel: The document panel is a bulletin board in your classroom that you will use to display student learning throughout the learning expedition. For each learning plan, you will add a visual artifact to represent student learning from each learning plan.

Overview of Grade 9 Learning Plans

1. Human Flourishing
2. We Are Neighbors
3. The Root Causes of Poverty
4. Trapped in Poverty
5. How a Community Is Transformed
6. Physical Transformation: Water
7. Physical Transformation: Community Health
8. Physical Transformation: Education
9. Physical Transformation: Economics
10. Physical Transformation: Child Protection
11. How Can We Contribute?
12. A World Behind Your T-Shirt
13. Designing a Proposal
14. Interview an Expert
15. Proposal Presentation