

7. How can charities get beyond passing out groceries, and address educational and addiction problems?
8. How was Jesus a lobbyist?
9. Find out what issues related to poverty are facing Congress and write, call or e-mail your representative.

## OVERALL

1. What face or faces will stay with you from this program on hunger? What did he or she teach you that was new? How have you been challenged to live or think differently?
2. No one person or group can solve domestic or world hunger. But each person can do acts that help and that make a difference. What will you do to make a difference? Write it down on a slip of paper and share the item with a group member for accountability. Place it where you will see it often.
3. Consider organizing a group in your congregation or community which works in an ongoing way on hunger issues.

## WEBSITES & OTHER RESOURCES

The Hunger Project [www.thp.org](http://www.thp.org)  
 America's Second Harvest [www.secondharvest.org/](http://www.secondharvest.org/)  
 Church World Service [www.churchworldservice.org/](http://www.churchworldservice.org/)  
 ELCA World Hunger Program [www.elca.org/hunger/](http://www.elca.org/hunger/)  
 United Methodist Committee on Relief [gbgm-umc.org/umcor/](http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/)  
 Bread for The World [www.bread.org/institute/index.html](http://www.bread.org/institute/index.html)  
 National Council of Churches [www.nccusa.org/](http://www.nccusa.org/)  
 Society of St. Andrew [www.endhunger.org/index1.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/index1.htm)  
 Mennonite Central Committee [www.mcc.org/catalog](http://www.mcc.org/catalog)  
 The Earth Institute [www.sachs.earth.columbia.edu](http://www.sachs.earth.columbia.edu)  
 Hunger No More [www.hungernomore.org](http://www.hungernomore.org)  
 Foods Resource Bank [www.foodsresourcebank.org](http://www.foodsresourcebank.org)  
 Heifer Project International [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)  
 United Methodist Church [www.UMC.org](http://www.UMC.org)  
 World Food Day [www.worldfooddayusa.org](http://www.worldfooddayusa.org)  
 Souper Bowl of Caring [www.souperbowl.org/](http://www.souperbowl.org/)

*This study guide is downloadable at [www.nccusa.org/hunger](http://www.nccusa.org/hunger)*

*Producer: Burton Buller and Mennonite Media for National Council of Churches through the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, with United Methodist Committee on Relief, the World Hunger Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Bread for the World, Society of St. Andrew, and Church World Service.*

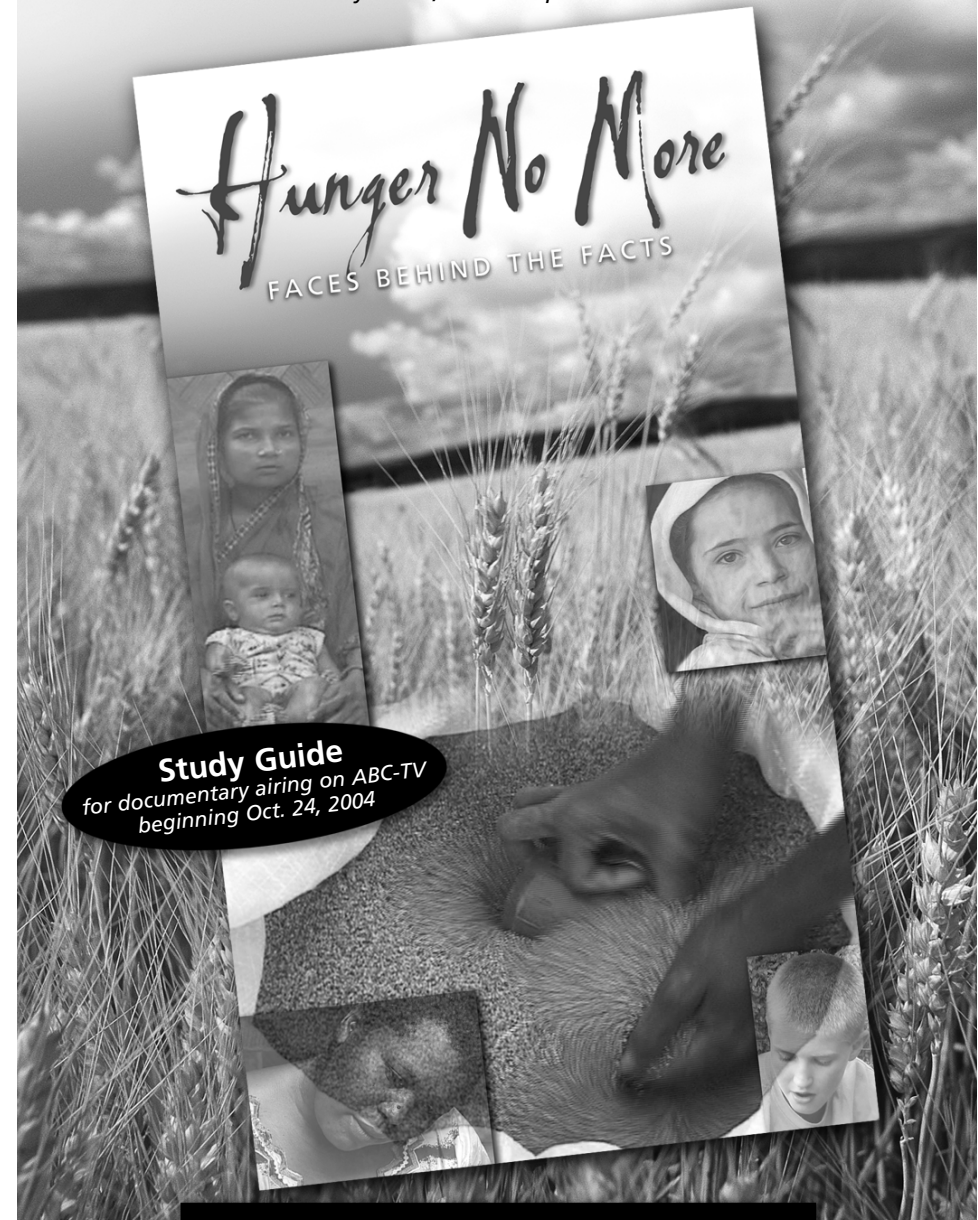
**For information about this and other video resources, contact:**

**MENNONITE MEDIA PRODUCTIONS**  
 1251 Virginia Avenue | Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
 800-999-3534 or 540-434-6701  
[www.mennomedia.org](http://www.mennomedia.org) | [mm@mennomedia.org](mailto:mm@mennomedia.org)

© 2004 National Council of Churches USA. Printed in U.S.A.

# "Over a billion people on the earth struggle for daily survival..."

*Jeffrey Sachs, Ethicist/Special Advisor*



## INSTRUCTIONS

View the documentary as a whole or in sections, stopping for discussion as desired. Use only the questions that you think will connect with your group, and add your own.

## INTRODUCTION

Sometimes when we hear that people are starving to death, we wonder how can it be that there is literally no food for them. Or if we hear there are 31 million hungry in the U.S., what does that mean? What are the ways people might be counted in the “billion people on the planet that struggle for survival” even though they may get some food?

## BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

Look up biblical passages (or from your book of religious instruction) regarding commandments or injunctions to feed the hungry. Read them silently, as a group, or in small groups.

1. **Matthew 25: 31-46** — In this passage Jesus says those who feed the hungry will be with him in heaven while those who don't won't be. Some spiritualize this reading saying it is talking of spiritual hunger and feeding. What kind of needs do you think Matthew 25 addresses and why?
2. **Mark 14:7** — When the woman anointed Jesus' feet with expensive oil and the disciples reprimanded her, Jesus corrected them saying, “The poor you'll always have with you.” People often stop with that, saying that Jesus said the poor would always be around so it is a helpless cause. Rather, Jesus says, “The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want.” — another reference to the fact that we should help the poor. Have you ever heard this used as an excuse that the problem is too big to tackle? What can you say?
3. **Jeremiah 22:16** — This passage describes a good and worthy king as: “He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?” declares the Lord.” One pastor, who has made it a priority to work with the poor, extends that passage to say, “We do not really know Jesus until we know the poor.” Do you think that is true or not true?
4. **1 Samuel 2: 1-10** — The phrase “hunger no more” is used in 1 Samuel 2 when Hannah praises God for the gift of her son, born after barrenness. Read the passage as a group or for a call to worship. How is the line, “The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts” a useful reminder that any one of us could have been born into situations throughout the world where we would experience hunger and poverty daily?
5. How do people excuse themselves or make rationalizations about these clear spiritual instructions?

## GLOBAL HUNGER

1. Why do women especially suffer from malnourishment?
2. How can education help women, and, by extension, men?

## POLICY

1. How do U.S. trade policies affect hunger worldwide? How does our domestic political wrangling (such as implementing trade barriers to keep our economy strong) keep people in other countries from having enough to eat?
2. It is commonly thought that the U.S. gives a great deal of foreign aid, whereas in reality it is only about 0.1 percent of our budget (may depend on how it is counted). Where do these misconceptions come from, and how can they be stopped or challenged?
3. How do our international policies and engaging in war affect global hunger?

## SOLUTIONS

1. Existing technologies can help farm producers in lower-producing countries triple their yield and change the lives of their families. What can you do to help producers have access to the technologies?
2. How can alleviating hunger help in the war against terrorism?

## DOMESTIC HUNGER

1. Why is hunger in the U.S. less visible?
2. Discuss whether urban gardening or gleaning would be possible in your community or locality.

## WELFARE

1. George McGovern says, “There are very few able-bodied men that have ever been on welfare.” Do you agree or disagree? Discuss why some middle and upper wage people frequently disparage women with small children on welfare.
2. How does contributing to or volunteering at food banks make a serious dent in hunger?
3. Why are there more people accessing food banks and homeless centers than previously? How are these people different than previously?
4. What can you do to alleviate waste at restaurants, schools, institutions and home?
5. Would raising minimum wage help or hurt the hunger issue? Discuss pros and cons.
6. What could a partnership between churches, private sector and government do to work at domestic hunger issues?