

Conversation Guides on Sin

Frank G. Cookingham

© World Vision International 2005, All Rights Reserved. No part of this document or any of its contents may be reproduced, copied, modified or adapted, without the prior written consent of the author.

Interviewing an individual (most likely a development facilitator)

Introduction

The essence of transformation involves confessing sin with a repentant heart, receiving God's forgiveness, and then desiring to please God by living according to Kingdom values. Let's explore what sin is, and how it affects the development work in this situation.

Pray for openness to new thinking about God's love for us in spite of our sinful nature.

1. What is sin? Tell me your understanding about it. [Probe for specific details about the nature of sin as the respondent understands it.]

2. Some theologians describe sin as rebellion against God. What do you think? [Encourage the respondent to look at rebellion from different perspectives.]

3. Some theologians describe sin as broken or marred relationship. What do you think? [Explore the meaning of "marred." Explore the types of relationships that are affected by sin.]

4. Some theologians describe sin as lack of trust in God. What do you think? [Explore the signs of lacking trust.]

5. Where in scripture can you find information about the nature of sin?
6. We have identified some important ideas about sin. What implications are there for community development in these ideas?

Interviewing a group of church leaders

The purpose of this discussion is to explore important relationships between the mission of the church in this community and community development.

1. What are basic principles of community development?
2. How does implementation of the church's mission relate to community development?
3. How does sin affect the community development process?
4. What can the church do to help people understand the nature and the power of sinful temptation? How would that affect community development?