

He saw it was  
**GOOD**

**AN MAF BIBLE STUDY**

**LEADER'S GUIDE**



# Contents

Foreword	3	<b>SESSION 4: FROM SEEDS TO SAPLINGS</b>	
How to use this guide	4	Introduction	43
<b>SESSION 1: OUR GLOBAL HOME</b>		Scripture	43
Introduction	6	The SDGs and Prosperity	44
Scripture	7	Devotion	45
The SDGs and The 5 'Ps'	8	Review	47
Devotion	9	MAF story	48
Review	11	Reflection	50
MAF story	11	Repentance	51
Reflection	12	Prayer	52
Repentance	13	Response	53
Prayer	14	Find out more	54
Response	15	<b>SESSION 5: BUILDING BRIDGES</b>	
Find out more	16	Introduction	56
<b>SESSION 2: LOVING GOD'S WAY</b>		Scripture	57
Introduction	18	The SDGs and Peace	57
Scripture	19	Devotion	59
The SDGs and People	19	Review	60
Devotion	20	MAF story	61
Review	22	Reflection	63
MAF story	23	Repentance	64
Reflection	24	Prayer	65
Repentance	25	Response	66
Prayer	25	Find out more	67
Response	27	<b>SESSION 6: STRONGER TOGETHER</b>	
Find out more	28	Introduction	69
<b>SESSION 3: THRIVING IN GOD'S WORLD</b>		Scripture	70
Introduction	30	The SDGs and Partnership	70
Scripture	30	Devotion	71
The SDGs and Planet	31	Review	73
Devotion	33	MAF story	74
Review	34	Reflection	76
MAF story	35	Repentance	77
Reflection	37	Prayer	78
Repentance	38	Response	79
Prayer	38	Find out more	80
Response	39	Acknowledgments	81
Find out more	41	References	82

# Foreword

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it (**Genesis 2:15**). God's command is clear, we are responsible for looking after God's creation. **Psalm 24** says, 'The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.'

The earth belongs to Him, and He loves it, sustains it, and restores it. We all have a part to play in ensuring that the land, the sea and everything in it is stewarded well. Churches and mission agencies are now recognising that caring for creation is a biblical mandate. But it is one which has been sadly neglected. Little by little, humanity has moved away from honouring our heavenly Father and everything He created for us as a loving act.

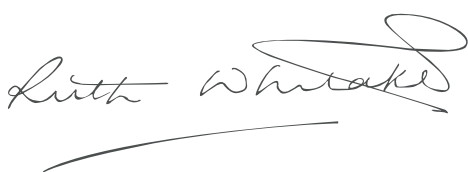
The United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development is the world's response to rectifying what humanity has forgotten. It is a framework that can help us all to consider and redress all the imbalances that have occurred. It gives us a framework for considering how, as Christians, we can start to restore the planet and its inhabitants.

The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) chime with the compassionate examples of Jesus found in the Bible, and overlap with MAF's belief that every community, however remote, should have the essentials for life. MAF is committed to managing our environmental impact as part of our integral missional obligation to care for all God's creation. This means caring for the people and our planet. We strive to pursue wise stewardship and mitigate our impact on the environment as we pursue our mission of bringing help, hope and healing through aviation and technology.

Many of the people we serve are among those most affected by climate change, with many suffering from droughts and increasingly extreme weather patterns. By reducing wasteful consumption in our offices and seeking sustainable ways to minimise our carbon footprint impact on the environment, MAF operations across the globe constantly seek to care for God's creation.

The education of staff and volunteers, our partnership with those engaged in looking for new ways to make our planet a better place — along with our investment in appropriate technologies — all help towards MAF's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship.

'*He saw it was good*' is a Bible study tool we can use as Christians. As you journey through the six sessions, I hope that it will inspire you to pause, think and take action to start to repair, maintain and prosper life on our beautiful earth. Doing so will enable people everywhere to flourish and to enjoy the Lord's creation now, and for generations to come.



Ruth Whitaker, MAF UK Chief Executive Officer

# How to use this guide

Welcome to *He saw it was good*, an inspirational six-session, interactive MAF Bible study, introducing the topic of sustainability through the themes of People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships.

Each session contains videos, stories, Bible readings, discussion points, prayers and a time of reflection:

## **Part 1: Introduction**

A short video explaining the theme of the study

## **Part 2: Scripture**

A key Bible passage to read as a group

## **Part 3: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 5 'Ps'**

A short video explaining the SDG topics linked to the session theme

## **Part 4: Devotion**

A reflection from an MAF staff member on the role MAF and the wider Christian community play in the sustainability agenda

## **Part 5: Review**

A few questions for group discussion based on the devotion

## **Part 6: MAF story**

Hear the background to an MAF story and watch it unfold

## **Part 7: Reflection**

A few discussion questions, to challenge your group on the content so far

## **Part 8: Repentance**

Thought-provoking questions for a time of silent personal reflection

## **Part 9: Prayer**

Some points to focus your prayer time

## **Part 10: Response**

Session summary and action points to take away

## **Part 11: Find out more**

Optional additional MAF story to continue the journey

Designed to be used in conjunction with the supplied PowerPoint presentations and *Participant's Workbook*, throughout this *Leader's Guide* we will tell you when to move to the next slide, when to click play on a video and when to read passages aloud between you as a group. See the handy key below, complete with bold text instruction:



**CLICK TO THE NEXT SLIDE /  
CLICK A PLAY BUTTON**



**PAUSE / DISCUSS AS A GROUP**



**TEXT FOR SOMEONE IN YOUR  
GROUP TO READ ALOUD**



**ACTIVITY FOR PARTICIPANTS**



# SESSION 1

## Our Global Home



# Introduction



**START POWERPOINT FROM SLIDE 1 AND CLICK THROUGH TO SLIDE 2 TO WELCOME PEOPLE**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 3 AND THE PLAY BUTTON ON THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

Hi, and welcome to this Bible study series from MAF — Mission Aviation Fellowship.

I'm Sheonagh, and I'm Matt, and we will be journeying with you through these studies, linking everything together and providing a smooth flight!

'He saw it was good' is a six-session Bible study series that aims to engage with the United Nations Sustainability Agenda. We'll be considering this from a Christian perspective and examining how the Bible can help us understand the issues that the planet is currently facing, and pointing us towards a response, both as individuals and as a community of believers.

Here at MAF, we feel that, because of our work with some of the most isolated communities on earth, we have a unique story to tell about the ways in which we are seeing the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals advance through the services we provide across the globe.

In today's connected world, the irony is that never have so many people been so isolated. Many remote communities have never heard the Gospel and are living in spiritual darkness. If a person has a medical emergency and the nearest hospital is a few days' walk or an uncomfortable drive on rough roads, their prognosis is poor. When natural disasters, conflict or famine strike hard-to-reach places, an aircraft may be the only safe way to reach people.

At MAF, we believe nothing should stop people from receiving the love of God and the essentials of life — no matter how remote they are. Our vision is *'to see isolated people changed by the love of Christ.'*

For more than 75 years, MAF has been flying light aircraft over jungles, mountains, rivers and deserts. We enable more than 2,000 organisations to bring medical care, emergency relief, long-term development and Christian hope to thousands of communities.

Here's a short video which gives a flavour of who MAF is and what we seek to do...

In this Bible study series, you will explore different themes relating to the sustainability agenda and consider how Scripture speaks into those themes today. Through the

process of 'Review', 'Reflection', 'Repentance' and 'Response', you will discern how you can make a difference yourself, or as a church.

Woven into each study and theme will be an example of how MAF's work helps to advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda as well as suggestions on what you can pray for.

We really hope you enjoy journeying around the world with us through this Bible study, as we explore the topic of sustainability. It is our prayer that God will both inspire and challenge you through what you can learn and reflect upon in each study.

So please ensure you have your tickets ready, your seat belts fastened, your tray tables in the locked position – then sit back, relax and enjoy your flight with MAF!

# Scripture



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 4**



**ASK SOMEONE TO READ THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE ALOUD**

'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him. For He laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths. Who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies. They will receive the Lord's blessing and have a right relationship with God their Saviour. Such people may seek You and worship in Your presence, O God of Jacob.'

**Psalm 24:1-6 (NLT)**

We will be returning to this verse later in the study.

# The SDGs and the 5 'Ps'



**ASK PARTICIPANTS TO USE THEIR WORKBOOKS TO NOTE DOWN THE 17 SDGS IN THE SPACES PROVIDED DURING THE VIDEO.**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 5 AND PLAY THE VIDEO (YOUR GROUP MAY ASK FOR THIS VIDEO TO BE PLAYED TWICE)**

## Video Transcript

In 2015, all Member States of the United Nations adopted a Resolution entitled '*Transforming Our World – The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development.*' Here's an extract from the preamble to that Resolution:

☞ This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path.

As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. ☞

This global agenda provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity, for people and planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, known as SDGs for short, which are an urgent call for action by all countries – developed and developing – in a global partnership.

They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and spur economic growth – all the while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Here's a short video that shows all 17 SDGs. See if you can note them all down. You may need to watch this part again, as it moves quite fast! Did you manage to get them all?

These 17 SDGs consider for the first time all 3 dimensions of sustainability – social, environmental and economic. The goals form a framework which the United Nations refers to as the '5 Ps'.



These are:

- **People**
- **Planet**
- **Prosperity**
- **Peace**
- **Partnerships**

This Bible study series will explore these '5 Ps' of sustainable development, unpack the perspectives the Bible can offer to the United Nations Agenda and challenge us as Christians to think about how we can advance these global goals while carrying out our responsibility to advance the Kingdom of God.

We hope you'll be challenged and encouraged by what you see and hear as you journey through with us.



**CLICK ONTO SLIDES 6 AND THEN 7 FOR ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY**

# Devotion

Written by Chris Macrae



**CLICK THROUGH SLIDES 8-11**



**DECIDE HOW BEST TO READ BETWEEN YOU AS A GROUP  
(ONE PERSON OR TAKE TURNS)**

**Note for Leader — The text for the devotion appears in the Participants Workbook as well as across slides 8-11 of the Powerpoint presentation. Your group may find it easier to read from their workbooks.**

How can the Bible and our Christian faith help influence the global response to and promotion of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Agenda?

This is probably the question that most comes to mind as we begin our Bible study series looking at the whole issue of sustainable development.

A good place to start is to go right back to the beginning of creation — where it all began. In **Genesis 1**, we see that God created a perfect world for us, with everything made for our enjoyment as human beings.

Later, however, the Bible shows how we wasted it all. Now, if we fast forward to the 21st century, we see that the fate of the planet we call 'home' is at the forefront of the debate on climate change — the effects of which can be seen everywhere we look.

**Genesis 1:29-30** says, 'Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground — everything that has life." And that is what happened' (NLT).

The biblical story of creation names us — that's you and me — as stewards, or caretakers, of God's creation. Our responsibility and dominion over creation shouldn't be seen as a license to exploit it.

The Bible is clear that we must protect the environment from sinful greed. It's not something that should only concern those who are passionate about the welfare of the planet. It's something in which all Christians should take an interest and be concerned about.

This is not just about concerns for environmental issues or climate change, it's about the overall sustainable development of our planet, and everyone on it. We have a unique role, given to us by God, as His helpers in promoting what is right, good and true.

It's a role that includes *all* human beings, not just Christians. As Christians, however, we have an important part to play in advancing the Sustainable Development Agenda for the good of our planet and everyone living there.

I say 'our' planet — though we know that it isn't in fact 'our' planet. **Psalm 24:1-2** says, 'The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him. For He laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths' (NLT).

I love this Psalm! It's a reminder that the earth is the Lord's, and we haven't stewarded it well through our actions, greed and desire for profit.

According to Kjell Nordstokke in *The Sustainable Development Goals In The Perspective Of Christian Faith And Theology*, 'The Bible largely tells stories about ordinary people and their everyday lives. They include experiences of drought and hunger, sufferings due to war and violence, and a constant fear of being struck by illness or misfortune.

'These experiences from daily life on the one hand reminded people of their vulnerability, but they also filled them with awe regarding creation, its greatness and generosity. They recognised that they belonged to a reality far beyond their understanding.'

In **Matthew 22:37-40**, Jesus teaches us that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and — of equal importance — that we must love our neighbour as ourselves.

However, to do this and not promote the cause of the planet's sustainable development, which involves everyone living on it, seems to go against the grain of Jesus' teaching.

In this Bible study series, we want to consider these things through the lens of the United Nations' '5 Ps' — People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships. We also want to challenge ourselves, as Christians, to discover how we can help advance the cause of sustainable development through our concern for God's Kingdom.

# Review



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 12**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

- Consider the phrase in **Psalm 24:1-2**, 'everything in it'. David is saying that it's not just the world that belongs to God, but also 'everything' in it. Think about our role as stewards of God's creation. What level of responsibility do we have, and how should we react to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda?
- Read **Psalm 24** in its entirety. If the world and everything in it belongs to God, what does this Psalm tell us about how we should worship Him in response to this truth?



**DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP**

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# MAF Story



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 13 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

We are now going to look at an example of how the work of MAF helps to advance these SDGs.

MAF's earliest vision was to support missionaries who were serving people in places that were difficult or impossible to reach. Communities that were isolated by challenging terrain, the lack of roads or adverse weather conditions. Places where overland travel was too dangerous because of conflict, bandits or warring tribes. MAF knows from experience that isolated communities face additional hardships due to the difficulty of accessing healthcare, education and other services that many take for granted.

The SDGs reflect MAF's belief that every community, however remote, should have the essentials for life. The United Nations highlights the fact that geographical distance and insecure or dangerous travel are barriers to achieving the 17 SDGs. Because of this, the United Nations stated, *'We pledge that no one will be left behind, and we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.'*

So, in an echo of **Matthew 19:30** — *'many who are last, will be first'* — MAF has always applied the principle of 'leave no one behind' to both physical and spiritual poverty. This approach has enabled the work of mission organisations, Bible translators and distributors, and local churches across the world to reach those who are most in need. Here's a video that introduces what this principle means to us here at MAF.

## Reflection



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 14**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

- Think about **Psalm 24:1-2** again. What does it mean when it indicates that we are under God's ownership and control? Does this scare you or comfort you? How does this influence your daily walk with God?
- In what ways does Jesus' commands in **Matthew 22:37-40** enable us to understand our role as Christians in relation to sustainable development? Reflect on the ways that the command to love our neighbour can influence how we think about the drive to ensure a sustainable future for the planet and everything in it.
- What emotions did you feel as you watched the MAF video and considered what life is like for people living in some of the remotest parts of the world? Has this altered your perception of what isolation is like?





## DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP

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# Repentance

**Note for Leader — This section is a more personal reflection, not a discussion. Give participants the option of a time of quiet personal reflection during the study, or suggestion they use the questions (in their workbook) and reflect at home after the study**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 15**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

- When thinking about **Psalm 24:1-2** and how everything on the earth belongs to God, it's good to realise that this also includes you and anything you may be worried about. It includes anything which causes you stress or anxiety. Take a moment to lift these things to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him that these concerns are not yours to keep, and that He goes before us in everything we do.
- Take time to consider what isolation means for people living in the remotest parts of the world. People who don't have access to life's essentials. Think of times in your own life where it was easy to take the connectedness that we enjoy for granted. Then, having done so, ask God to help us to be aware of the needs of those who are often most affected by issues such as climate change, but who contribute the least to its problems and causes.

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# Prayer



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 16**



**ASK GROUP MEMBERS TO READ ALOUD (IN WORKBOOKS TOO)**

- Pray for those who live in isolation and who don't have easy access to life's essentials. Pray that, when it comes to physical or spiritual poverty, they don't get 'left behind'.
- Pray that, through MAF's life-saving flights, our planes continue to reach remote people groups with the essentials for life. Pray too that we can help advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- Pray for those in positions of influence, whether in governments or organisations working to advance sustainable development. May they continue to drive forward the change needed to achieve the goals and aims necessary to care for God's creation. Pray that God will instil in them the wisdom and awareness needed to achieve significant progress.
- Pray that the Church will embrace the challenges posed by the Sustainable Development Agenda so that a generation of Christians will emerge who can speak passionately about the need for good stewardship of God's creation.



**FOR THE SAKE OF THE  
WORLD**

After today's study, please consider becoming part of a *For the Sake of the World* prayer group. To find out more, or to set up your own group, please visit <http://forthesakeoftheworld.com>



**ASK PARTICIPANTS IF THEY HAVE ANY OTHER PRAYERS TO ADD TO THIS LIST (SPACE IN THEIR WORKBOOKS TO WRITE ANY DOWN)**

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**PAUSE AND HAVE A TIME OF PRAYER**

# Response



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 17 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**



**VIDEO INCLUDES PARTICIPANT ACTIVITY (THERES A SPACE IN THEIR WORKBOOKS TO WRITE THEIR THOUGHTS IN)**

## Video Transcript

It can be easy sometimes as Christians to switch off or ignore an agenda that comes from a secular context, and we can feel that it isn't our place to champion or advocate for it.

However, when we consider the role given to each of us by God in **Genesis 1:29-30** to steward His creation and look after the earth and everyone in it, we begin to see how, as Christians, we have an important role to play in relation to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda, as the planet is ours to steward.

Because the whole planet belongs to God and we have responsibility for looking after every part of it, and every people group in it, we need to be aware of the places in the world that are often most affected by sustainability issues, but generally contribute the least to the problem.

These places are often remote, cut off from the 'outside world', and don't have access to the essentials of life that we so easily take for granted.

This is where MAF can help. Our vision to see isolated people changed by the love of Christ inspires us to bring help, hope and healing to the communities living in isolation. Throughout this study, you will see and hear more of the ways that, through MAF's work and ministry, we are helping to advance the SDGs set by the United Nations to help ensure sustainable futures for everyone on earth.

We hope you will enjoy journeying with us through the Bible study series and that you will be challenged by what God is revealing to us through His Word and how we can respond to make a difference.

You can learn more about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda on their website at this address <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> and consider how the aims and goals of this agenda fit in with our responsibility to advance the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Why not continue your journey with MAF with the free MAF Discovery Air Pass to discover places rarely featured in travel brochures, and meet people living far from the tourist trail?

You'll 'fly' with MAF from country to country and find out what it's like to live, work and serve in some of the most isolated places on earth.

Every couple of months, you'll receive updates by post or email from our pilots, along with real-life stories, fascinating facts and opportunities to support our work. Sign up for our Discovery Air Pass journey now at the address on the screen:

**[www.maf-uk.org/discover-now](http://www.maf-uk.org/discover-now)** and see the world from a unique perspective.

We hope you enjoyed this first study and were challenged to consider what response you can make to what you have heard, seen and discovered. The next study begins your journey with MAF by looking at the first of the United Nations' '5 Ps' of sustainable development — 'People'.

At MAF, everything we do involves people. The reason we exist and our calling from God is to see people's lives changed by the love of Christ. So, every day, and in all that we do, people are a huge motivator for fulfilling our vision.

But before we explore this, if you'd like to hear more about how MAF seeks to enhance our 'global home' through its work and ministry, visit this address

**[www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore)** to find another story that we hope you will enjoy.

## Find out more



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 18 (END OF THE STUDY)**

**Note for Leader — We have lots of other examples of how MAF helps to advance the Sustainable Development Agenda through our work and ministry, and through partnership with other organisations seeking to reach the most isolated communities on earth.**

**If you have time, or your group would like to continue their journey in this session of the Bible Study and find out more, then please visit**

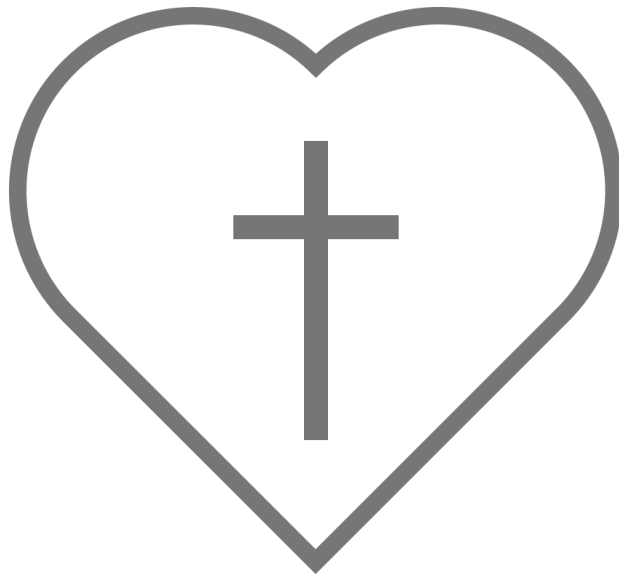
**[www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore)**

**for access to more inspiring stories and videos.**



# SESSION 2

Loving God's Way



# Introduction



**START POWERPOINT FROM SLIDE 1 AND CLICK THROUGH TO SLIDE 2 TO WELCOME PEOPLE**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 3 AND THE PLAY BUTTON ON THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

Hi, and welcome back to the second study in this series as we start exploring the United Nations' '5 Ps' of sustainable development and seeing how the Bible can guide us in how we respond as Christians to the challenges that exist.

In this study we will be considering the first of those '5 Ps' — 'People'. We've called it 'Loving God's Way'.

You'll unpack what Scripture says about how we should connect with and love other people and will see what Jesus taught about this, especially concerning our responsibilities towards the poor, the needy and the most marginalised.

The statistics paint a very grim picture of the levels of poverty that still exist in our world today; levels which are only likely to increase as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those living in the global south — often in very remote areas — are likely to experience the most negative impact of these changes, compared to those living in the global north.

At MAF, our vision is to see *'isolated people changed by the love of Christ.'* This statement shows how central 'people' are to all we seek to do. Bringing help, hope and healing to those living in the most isolated places on earth is our way of responding to the responsibilities Jesus sets out for us as Christians.

Later on, you'll learn about MAF's Disaster Response Team which shows one very tangible way in which we help when people are facing great need. We'll also give you a chance to think about what *you* can do to help those in your local area whose needs are greatest.

So, sit back, relax and enjoy your flight with MAF, and we'll see you again shortly!

# Scripture



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 4**



**ASK SOMEONE TO READ THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE ALOUD**

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

**Luke 12:32-34 (ESV)**

We will be returning to this verse later in the study.

## The SDGs and People



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 5 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**

### Video Transcript

The UN give the following description to their theme of 'People' —

*'We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.'*

According to them, the slowdown in progress on poverty reduction since 2015 has been further set back by the COVID-19 pandemic. The triple threat of COVID-19, conflict and climate change makes the global goal of ending poverty by 2030 virtually impossible to achieve unless immediate and substantial actions are taken.

- The pandemic has increased the number of people living below the poverty line. This, in turn, has caused the extreme poverty rate to rise for the first time in a generation, with more than 700 million people living in extreme poverty.
- More than 10% of the global population still survives on less than \$1.90 per day (about £1.41), with current predictions indicating that the COVID-19 pandemic will result in an additional 100 million people living in poverty worldwide.
- Even before COVID-19, the number of people experiencing hunger globally and suffering from food insecurity had been rising gradually since 2014. The pandemic has increased the inadequacies and vulnerabilities of global food systems, potentially leaving millions more people chronically undernourished, and making the goal of ending hunger even more difficult to achieve. An estimated 132 million more people have been pushed into chronic hunger in 2020. In addition to this, countries and territories around the world continue to struggle with multiple forms of malnutrition.
- It's estimated that almost 690 million people around the world experienced hunger in 2019. This is equivalent to around 9% of the world's population – an increase of nearly 60 million in 5 years.

The statistics relating to poverty and hunger paint a very bleak picture. In this study we will explore ways in which we can respond to this by sharing what the Bible says.

# Devotion

Written by Heather Malloch



**CLICK THROUGH SLIDES 6-9**



**DECIDE HOW BEST TO READ BETWEEN YOU AS A GROUP  
(ONE PERSON OR TAKE TURNS)**

**Note for Leader — The text for the devotion appears in the Participants Workbook as well as across slides 6-9 of the Powerpoint presentation. Your group may find it easier to read from their workbooks.**

A connection is a relationship between two things, people or groups. It's a union.

Today, thanks to technological advances and modern media, we are more connected than ever before. Despite this, social isolation, loneliness and suicide have sadly peaked over recent times.

Few of us need to be told that we are less socially engaged than in previous times. Paradoxically, although people are connecting more, they relate to each other less. Cultivating authentic relationships and connections comes from accepting, valuing and respecting each other.

Brené Brown, an American lecturer, author and research professor, writes, 'We cultivate love when we allow our most vulnerable and powerful selves to be deeply seen and known, and when we honour the spiritual connection that grows from that offering with trust, respect, kindness and affection.'

The writer and poet Elizabeth Bibesco, daughter of British Prime Minister Herbert Asquith, wrote, 'Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.'

Showing kindness, listening to others when they are in need and helping them *with* that need, all aid in building healthy and intimate connections.

Authentic relationships lay at the heart of Jesus' ministry, with the New Testament providing many examples. Zacchaeus the tax collector (**Luke 19:1-10**) and the woman at the well (**John 4:7-30**) are just two instances of Jesus' non-judgemental love for us.

Sometimes, people's needs were physical, like the time Jesus raised a widow's son from the dead (**Luke 7:11-15**). At other times, they were spiritual. **Matthew 9:35-36** says, 'When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd' (ESV).

All, however, show how Jesus formed connections with people from different walks of life – showing empathy, kindness and a deep love for them. Jesus loves sinners and never turns anyone away!

The Bible has much to say about our responsibility to connect and love others. It's so important that only God's first commandment, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind' (**Matthew 22:37**), overshadows the value God places on those He loves, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' (**Matthew 22:39**).

Through us, the Lord takes care of those who have little. We *have* to look after the poor and needy. **Deuteronomy 15:11** tells us, 'For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land"' (ESV).

When it comes to those who are undervalued and marginalised in our society, God's Word instructs us to speak up for those that can't. 'Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy' (**Proverbs 31:8-9**, ESV).

The Bible is clear about what we are required to do. 'You shall not see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen down by the way and ignore them. You shall help him to lift them up again' (**Deuteronomy 22:4**, ESV).

Corrie ten Boom once wrote, 'The amount of God's love is unlimited, but we only receive as much as we use.' Because it's unlimited, God's love can *never* run out. His love is always there for us, and there is immeasurably more than we will ever need. Because the various media channels enable us to witness human suffering on a daily basis, feelings of being overwhelmed and having compassion fatigue can creep in. This often results in an impasse, as we cease to take any action whatsoever.

At times like these, pray to the One whose love and compassion *never* run dry. He will restore and refill us anew and allow us to invest our time in others so we can continue to love, care and cherish them. Mother Teresa famously said, 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.'

One very tangible way that MAF reaches out to those who are poor, vulnerable, destitute or in need is through our Disaster Response Team. You'll see and hear more about this later in this study.

## Review



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 10**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

- What is **Luke 12:33** talking about when it refers to 'a treasure in heaven that will never fail'?
- **Luke 12:34** tells us, 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' What difference could godly treasures make in the world today?
- Compassion fatigue is common. How do you think the words of Corrie ten Boom, 'If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God, you'll be at rest,' can help you overcome this?



**DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP**



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# MAF Story



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 11 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

Here at MAF we try and break down the barriers that often cause poverty and hunger. We reach out to those most in need physically, emotionally and of course spiritually. Our flights enable the connections that people who aren't living in isolation often take for granted.

Because being able to access healthcare, education and connection with others is essential to life, our ability to deliver these is backed up by what the Bible teaches about our responsibility to serve and love others.

One tangible way in which we help occurs when people in remote communities face disasters, whether natural or manmade. Our planes and technology are made available and can save lives!

When disaster strikes, we need to move fast. It's those early moments following a disaster that are the most crucial. Whether it's a war or famine, a medical epidemic or a natural disaster, each decision made needs to support a rapid, impactful and efficient response. If we do this, we save lives.

For more than 70 years, we've been able to play this role in some the world's most devastating disasters. We can do this by using the tools and gifts that God has placed at our disposal, reaching isolated communities in their time of need.

When disaster brings hunger, we can bring in food. When disaster brings vulnerability, we can bring in shelter. When disaster brings sickness, we can bring in medicine. When disaster brings despair, together, we can bring hope.

# Reflection



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 12**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

- When you think about poverty and injustice in the world today, what emotions do they conjure up within you?
- Think about how you reacted when you saw someone that you considered poor, desperate or in need. Maybe it was on television or in your own town. What did you think and what did you do? What prejudices do you think you hold, and about whom? Now, shut your eyes and imagine you are in the same situation. What could you do differently this time?
- 'We cultivate love when we allow our most vulnerable and powerful selves to be deeply seen and known, and when we honour the spiritual connection that grows from that offering with trust, respect, kindness and affection' (Brené Brown). What part of your relationships do you hide from others? And what aspects do you hold back from God? What do you think would happen if you lowered your guard a little? Take your fears and insecurities and hand them over to your heavenly Father.



**DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP**

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# Repentance

**Note for Leader — This section is a more personal reflection, not a discussion. Give participants the option of a time of quiet personal reflection during the study, or suggestion they use the questions (in their workbook) and reflect at home after the study**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 13**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**



- 'But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?' (**1 John 3:17**, ESV). Take time to repent of the times when you have 'turned a blind eye' to poverty. Ask the Holy Spirit to let you see people the way Jesus sees them.

# Prayer



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 14**



**ASK GROUP MEMBERS TO READ ALOUD (IN WORKBOOKS TOO)**

- Take a few minutes to remember those who have been caught up in natural disasters and conflict around the world. Pray for their physical, psychological and spiritual restoration. Pray for help and support to come through aid organisations like MAF, praying that MAF and its many humanitarian partners will help provide healing and be a light in the people's darkness.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to be more real, more authentic in your relationships with others and with your heavenly Father. Write down any thoughts you have so you can reflect on them in the days and weeks to come. Pray for opportunities to demonstrate this.

- Consider the world as it is today and how we can connect with each other. What can we do as Christians to reach out to those who need physical, emotional or spiritual healing? How can we best show them the love of Jesus?



FOR THE SAKE OF THE  
**WORLD**

After today's study, please consider becoming part of a *For the Sake of the World* prayer group. To find out more, or to set up your own group, please visit <http://forthesakeoftheworld.com>



**ASK PARTICIPANTS IF THEY HAVE ANY OTHER PRAYERS TO ADD TO THIS LIST (SPACE IN THEIR WORKBOOKS TO WRITE ANY DOWN)**

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# Response



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 15 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**



**VIDEO INCLUDES PARTICIPANT ACTIVITY (THERES A SPACE IN THEIR WORKBOOKS TO WRITE THEIR THOUGHTS IN)**

## Video Transcript

People often feel overwhelmed by the things they see and need to do, and hope that someone else will act instead. Because of this, we often ignore what's going on and just carry on with our daily lives. **Isaiah 43:2** reassures us that, when we pass through the waters or walk through the fire, we will be kept safe. No challenge is too big for our Lord if we keep our eyes fixed on Him.

In **Philippians 4:6-7**, Paul reminds us to not be anxious about anything, *'but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'*

Mother Teresa famously said, 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.' What one action can you pledge to do in the next week to help change the lives of those who needs are greatest? Write this down and keep it with you to remind you of your pledge. Tell one of your friends or someone in your church so they can help keep you accountable.

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If you've not already done so, why not continue on your journey with MAF and sign up for our Discovery Air Pass?

'Fly' with MAF from country to country and find out what it's like to live, work and serve in some of the most isolated places on earth. Every couple of months, you'll receive updates by post or email from our pilots, along with real-life stories, fascinating facts and opportunities to support our work. Check in now at this address [www.maf-uk.org/discover-now](http://www.maf-uk.org/discover-now).

We hope you enjoyed this study on 'People' and were challenged to consider what response you can make. The next study in this series looks at the second of the United Nations' '5 Ps' of sustainable development — 'Planet'.

Before we explore this, if you'd like to hear more about how MAF seeks to help end poverty and hunger and create safe environments for people living in isolation, visit this address [www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore) to find a couple of other stories that we hope you'll enjoy.



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 16 (END OF THE STUDY)**

# Find out more

**Note for Leader — We have lots of other examples of how MAF helps to advance the Sustainable Development Agenda through our work and ministry, and through partnership with other organisations seeking to reach the most isolated communities on earth.**

**If you have time, or your group would like to continue their journey in this session of the Bible Study and find out more, then please visit**

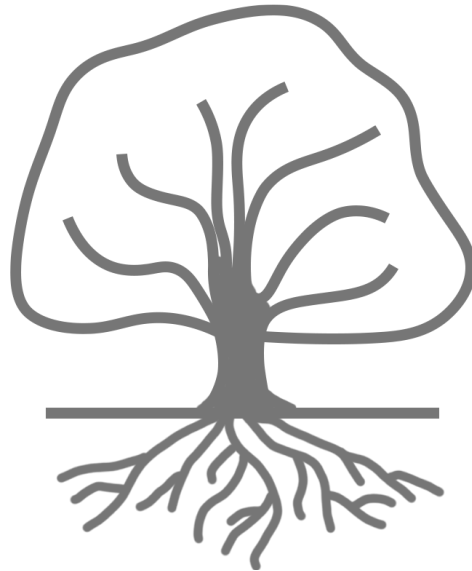
**[www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore)**

**for access to more inspiring stories and videos.**



# SESSION 3

## Thriving In God's World



# Introduction



**START POWERPOINT FROM SLIDE 1 AND CLICK THROUGH TO SLIDE 2 TO WELCOME PEOPLE**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 3 AND THE PLAY BUTTON ON THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

Welcome back to the '*He saw it was good*' Bible study series from MAF. We hope that you are enjoying journeying with us as we consider how, as Christians, we can respond to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda.

In the last study we looked at the goal of ensuring that all humans fulfil their potential, with one particular outcome being to end poverty and hunger. In this study, we'll consider the second of the United Nations' '5 Ps' of sustainable development — 'Planet'. The study is called 'Thriving in God's World'.

We will look at climate change and sustainable consumption and how these themes relate to the gift God gave us to rule over all living things — ensuring that we do this in a protecting, caring and nurturing way.

By doing this we will discover how to 'thrive in God's world' as His followers. As you'll hear later in this study, by neglecting and destroying parts of God's creation, not only do we become blind to His provision and handiwork, we also damage ourselves in the process.

We'll introduce the work of MAF Technologies PNG and show how, through its partnership with a rural hospital in Papua New Guinea, MAF has enabled a sustainable energy solution to meet the electricity needs of the hospital; improving the healthcare provided there and — ultimately — saving lives.

So, buckle up once more and we'll start the next leg of our journey with MAF through this Bible study series. Enjoy your flight!

# Scripture



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 4**



## ASK SOMEONE TO READ THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE ALOUD

'When I consider Your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is mankind that You are mindful of them, human beings that You care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. You made them rulers over the works of Your hands; You put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!'

**Psalm 8:3-9 (NIV)**

We will be returning to this verse later in the study.

# The SDGs and Planet



## CLICK ONTO SLIDE 5 AND PLAY THE VIDEO

### Video Transcript

The UN give the following description to their theme of 'Planet'. *'We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.'*

For decades, scientists have been explaining the ways in which humanity is driving the three planetary crises of climate, biodiversity and pollution, all of which are linked to unsustainable production and consumption.

Considering climate change:

- The United Nations stated that the year 2019 was the second warmest on record – the end of the warmest decade bringing with it massive wildfires, hurricanes, droughts, floods and other climate disasters across continents.

- To meet the maximum global temperature increase threshold called for in the 2015 Paris Agreement and ratified at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, greenhouse gas emissions must begin falling by 7.6% each year. If the world does not act now, the catastrophic effects of climate change will be far greater than those of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- According to World Bank estimates, climate change — if unchecked — will push up to 132 million people into extreme poverty by 2030. This means that most of the world's poorest people will end up living in situations characterised by fragility, conflict and violence. Poverty is already linked with vulnerability to climate-related threats such as flooding and infectious diseases — making climate change a major impediment to alleviating extreme poverty.
- In addition to contributing to an increase in extreme poverty, climate change is also a major contributor to internal migration. By 2050, climate change could cause 216 million people to move within their own country.
- Climate-related foreign aid has increased 34-fold, from one billion US dollars in the year 2000 to 34 billion in 2018.

Considering sustainable consumption:

- The global economy is driven by production and consumption, but it also wreaks havoc on planetary health through the unsustainable use of natural resources. According to the United Nations, the global material footprint — the total amount of raw material extracted to meet consumption demand — is increasing faster than population growth and economic output. Fossil fuel subsidies remain a serious concern.
- Between the year 2000 and 2017, the global material footprint per capita rose by almost 40% — from 8.8 metric tons to 12.2 metric tons.
- As of 2016, almost 14% of food produced globally was lost before reaching the retail sector.
- In 2019, the amount of electronic waste (e-waste) generated was 7.3kg per capita, of which less than 20% was said to be managed in an environmentally sustainable manner. The annual rate of growth in e-waste recycling over the past decade was 0.05kg per capita, which will need to increase more than tenfold if all e-waste is to be recycled by 2030.

The statistics show that there is still much for governments and decision makers to do in order to reach the targets set. But what can we do, as Christians, in terms of our role to tend God's creation? In this study, we will be exploring this very question.

# Devotion

Written by Adam Pope



**CLICK THROUGH SLIDES 6-9**



**DECIDE HOW BEST TO READ BETWEEN YOU AS A GROUP  
(ONE PERSON OR TAKE TURNS)**

**Note for Leader — The text for the devotion appears in the Participants Workbook as well as across slides 6-9 of the Powerpoint presentation. Your group may find it easier to read from their workbooks.**

We read in the Bible's account of creation that God set man above all the creatures of the earth. On day six, God made humans in His image and gave them authority to 'Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, and over every living creature that moves on the ground' (**Genesis 1:28**). That's a huge responsibility!

Over the centuries, many have used this command to legitimise the control and suppression of the planet. Many have sought to dominate and use God's creation for their own ends.

In the process of social 'progress' and economic growth, we have over-consumed the resources placed in our hands, industrialised the farming of livestock for food, destroyed habitats, and poisoned the environment we all share.

The terms 'rule' and 'subdue' have been translated as 'dominate' and 'conquer'. Today, we live with the consequences of this behaviour.

So, what should our attitude be to the role God has given us regarding His creation? If we want to know God's perspective on what it means to rule, what better place to start than the kings He chose to rule His people? His directions to them should provide an insight into our own responsibilities.

Let's take King Solomon as an example. In **Psalms 72:8-11**, the Psalmist says, 'May he rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. May the desert tribes bow before him and his enemies lick the dust.

'May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts. May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.'

He is clearly the boss!

Why are the kings bowing down to him? Where does his authority come from? Is it hard discipline, strict control and might? No. In **Psalm 72:12-14** we read, 'For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.'

Here is a ruler whose authority comes from his care and compassion, and who seeks to nourish and tend. It is this that gives him the authority to rule.

God calls us to 'act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with [our] God' (**Micah 6:8**). But I wonder if this is really humankind's attitude to God's creation?

Look at Jesus. He declared that, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me' (**Matthew 28:18**). Did He use that to bring about His Kingdom by force? Did He seek to use others and control people to push His agenda?

No. He tended His flock, healed and fed them, taught and encouraged them. His rule was gentle, kind and compassionate.

As our planet groans under the weight of our excess, we are being challenged to rethink our shared life on the planet. Studies have revealed the interconnectedness of all living things, from fungi to trees, mammals to insects, reefs to humans. We need one another.

We have been given the gift of ruling over all living things, but in a way that protects, cares and nourishes *all* forms of life. By doing so, it enables us to thrive.

But if we destroy other parts of God's creation, then not only are we neglecting His provision and handiwork, but we're also damaging ourselves in the process.

I found this biblical paraphrase helpful for understanding our God-given role to tend to the needs of creation. It was written by Christopher Brown:

'Rule with care and fairness over the natural world, over the myriads of My beautiful creatures — from tropical fish to soaring eagles to dogs and cats — every creature that is a part of this living world.'

## Review



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 10**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**





## Video Transcript

At MAF, through our lifeline flying programmes, we are able to help remote communities achieve their sustainable consumption goals, in parts of the world where it would be very difficult to do so without the connectedness enabled by MAF planes. By serving these communities, MAF is able to transport people and resources that can help remote communities tackle sustainability issues, as well as providing access to basic necessities such as good nutrition, shelter and safe water.

It's not only through flying that MAF can help. We use technology too, particularly through the expertise of MAF Technologies PNG.

In the last five years, increasing demand for solar energy installations in Papua New Guinea (PNG) has resulted in MAF's new Solar and Electrical Department. In PNG, more people than ever are turning to solar power to meet their energy needs.

According to a World Bank and International Finance Corporation report, 60% of households now use solar lighting, compared to just 2% about 8 years ago.

One of MAF's recent solar installations was at Mougulu Hospital — situated in a remote area of Western Province. For too long, the hospital was at the mercy of an expensive and unreliable diesel generator, which powered valuable life-saving breathing apparatus and basic lighting.

Interrupted power costs lives. Solar renewable energy, however, means a 24/7 power source enabling functional vaccine fridges and constant lighting so doctors can carry out critical surgery at any time of day or night.

This video tells the story of what the solar installation at the Mougulu hospital entailed.

My name is Lukas, I am the workshop manager from CRMF and I was the project manager for this project here in Mougulu. This project started about a year ago. I came here to Mougulu and looked at the situation and the power needs, and from then on we made plans and started with the solar system design. And then, now after a year, it finally happened.

Mougulu is a very remote place, there are no roads, no rivers. The plane is the only transport. And so we had to find the right batteries which could be flown by MAF plane. And all the logistics was definitely the biggest challenge for this system.

Really exciting is it's all really high-quality stuff. So we have use SMA Inverters which is a German brand, and also the Tesvolt batteries, which is also from Germany. Really high-quality battery. And yeah, it's a pleasure to install this nice quality equipment.

We want our patients to be helped. So, where there is no power, what can we do? We cannot see anything. When the patient needs oxygen, what can we do? They can die on our hands. So the importance of having power is, you know, it can save patients lives.

The big challenge was for the hospital to have reliable power. So they had always to fly in the diesel for the generator with a plane, which is really expensive and so they couldn't really afford 24/7 power so they would just run the generated for a limited time. And that was not really good for the vaccine fridges which didn't have stable temperature. So now, with this solar system, they have power 24/7 and they can have good cold fridges for their vaccines and make sure that they don't get destroyed.

# Reflection



**CLICK THROUGH SLIDES 12-13**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

- Think of people you've known who have had authority over you. This could be at work, in church, at school or in your family. How did they express that authority? What positive influences did that expression of authority have on you? What negative influences did these expressions of authority have on you?
- Consider the statistics below which relate to sustainable consumption. When we read these figures about 'waste', what do they tell us about how our lifestyles, demands and 'needs' regarding food and consumables aren't necessarily aligned in ways that promote sustainability? What can we learn from this?
  - » Between the year 2000 and 2017, the global material footprint per capita rose by almost 40% — from 8.8 metric tons to 12.2 metric tons.
  - » As of 2016, almost 14% of food produced globally was lost before reaching the retail sector.
  - » In 2019, the amount of electronic waste (e-waste) generated was 7.3kg per capita, of which less than 20% was said to be managed in an environmentally sustainable manner. The annual rate of growth in e-waste recycling over the past decade was 0.05kg per capita, which will need to increase more than tenfold if all e-waste is to be recycled by 2030.



**DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP**

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# Repentance

**Note for Leader — This section is a more personal reflection, not a discussion. Give participants the option of a time of quiet personal reflection during the study, or suggestion they use the questions (in their workbook) and reflect at home after the study**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 14**



**READ BETWEEN YOU AS A GROUP**



Re-read **Psalm 8:3-9** (Scripture section of this guide)

- Are there times when you haven't lived up to the responsibility God has given you to be a steward of His creation? We all are guilty in some part of mistreating the planet, whether knowingly or unintentionally, through the way in which society expects us to consume goods and materials.
- Take time to reflect on this, then spend time with God in prayer, asking Him to make you aware of your behaviour and actions. Then consider some different choices you could make.

# Prayer



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 15**



**ASK GROUP MEMBERS TO READ ALOUD (IN WORKBOOKS TOO)**

- Pray that God will grant us the grace to grow deeper in our respect and care for His creation. Pray too that we will take more time to reflect on our responsibility as stewards of planet earth.
- Pray for an end to the unsustainable use of the planet’s resources. May the fruits of creation be shared equally among all people, wherever they live, and no matter how isolated or remote they may be.
- Pray for the leaders and decision makers in governments around the world. May they uphold the commitments made in the 2015 Paris Agreement and the 2021 Glasgow Climate Pact regarding climate action.
- Pray that, through the continued smart use of technology, MAF Technologies PNG will continue to find sustainable solutions for the energy needs of those we serve in Papua New Guinea. Pray too that, through MAF’s flights around the world, we will continue to enable other organisations to deliver their own vital work in helping to promote sustainable production and consumption, along with effective climate action.



**FOR THE SAKE OF THE  
WORLD**

After today’s study, please consider becoming part of a *For the Sake of the World* prayer group. To find out more, or to set up your own group, please visit <http://forthesakeoftheworld.com>



**ASK PARTICIPANTS IF THEY HAVE ANY OTHER PRAYERS TO ADD TO THIS LIST (SPACE IN THEIR WORKBOOKS TO WRITE ANY DOWN)**

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**PAUSE AND HAVE A TIME OF PRAYER**

# Response



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 16 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**



**VIDEO INCLUDES PARTICIPANT ACTIVITY (THERES A SPACE IN THEIR WORKBOOKS TO WRITE THEIR THOUGHTS IN)**

## Video Transcript

So much of what we see and read in the media when it comes to the issue of sustainability tends to focus on climate change. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda exists to try and create a collective responsibility for moving the world onto a more sustainable path, so no one is left behind.

But we have seen in this study that, as Christians, our responsibility goes further than this. As followers of the One who has been given 'all authority in heaven and earth', we have been tasked with stewarding God's planet. One of the ways we can help to achieve this is by trying to advance the United Nations' SDGs.

We can do so where we are, and in our own areas of influence. By doing our part, we can be an example to others; opening up possible opportunities to tell others about the things that motivate us as Christians.

- Think about your impact on God's creation. What you eat or wear, how you travel or where you purchase goods. What changes can you make to better protect and care for the planet and the creatures inhabiting it?
- How can you share with other Christians our calling to be 'creation caretakers'?

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The invitation is still there for you to continue your journey with MAF and get your free boarding pass. Join us on a journey of discovery to visit places rarely featured in travel brochures, and meet people living far from the tourist trail. Sign up for our Discovery Air Pass journey and see the world from a unique perspective.

'Fly' with MAF from country to country and find out what it's like to live, work and serve in some of the most isolated places on earth. Every couple of months, you'll receive updates by post or email from our pilots, along with real-life stories, fascinating facts and opportunities to support our work. Check in now at this address [www.maf-uk.org/discover-more](http://www.maf-uk.org/discover-more)

If you'd like to hear more about how MAF seeks to help achieve the aim of protecting the planet so it can support the needs of present and future generations, visit this address [www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore) to find some more stories that will inspire you.

We hope you enjoyed this study on 'Planet' and were challenged to consider what response you can make to what you have seen and heard. The next study in this series looks at the third of the United Nations' '5 Ps' of sustainable development – 'Prosperity' – we look forward to seeing you then.





**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 17 (END OF THE STUDY)**

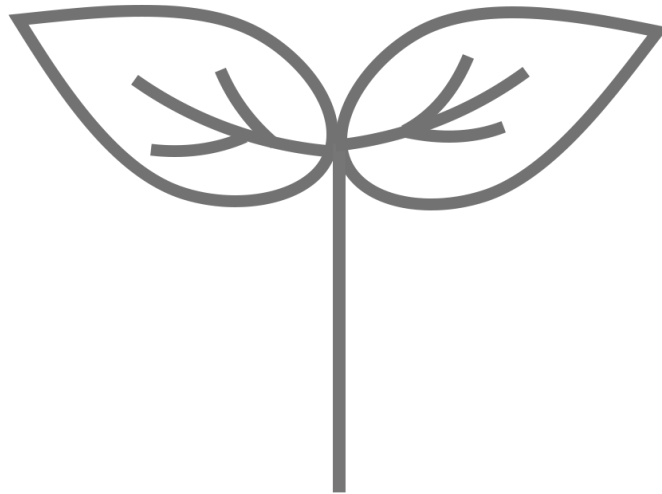
## Find out more

Note for Leader — We have lots of other examples of how MAF helps to advance the Sustainable Development Agenda through our work and ministry, and through partnership with other organisations seeking to reach the most isolated communities on earth.

If you have time, or your group would like to continue their journey in this session of the Bible Study and find out more, then please visit **[www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore)** for access to more inspiring stories and videos.

# SESSION 4

## From Seeds To Saplings



# Introduction



**START POWERPOINT FROM SLIDE 1 AND CLICK THROUGH TO SLIDE 2 TO WELCOME PEOPLE**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 3 AND THE PLAY BUTTON ON THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

Hi again, and welcome back to the '*He saw it was good*' Bible study series from MAF. In the last session we considered the importance of protecting the planet and enabling sustainable consumption. We also addressed the issue of climate change and the effects it has on the world's remotest people.

In this study, we turn to look at the third of the United Nations' '5 Ps' of sustainable development — 'Prosperity'. This study is called 'From Seeds to Saplings'.

We'll see how 'Prosperity' is defined as a way of classifying things like social status, wealth and well-being, and contrast this with what the Bible says about being prosperous — considering both spiritual and material wealth.

We will introduce you to some of the organisations relying on MAF to help rebuild the lives of people living in Uganda who have been displaced by conflict in South Sudan, and will see how 'prosperity', in these circumstances, is very different to the way we view it in the Global North.

So, I hope you have your tickets to hand and are ready to come flying with MAF again as we continue our journey around the world — thinking about how we can help advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda. Enjoy your flight!

# Scripture



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 4**



**ASK SOMEONE TO READ THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE ALOUD**

'Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.'

**3 John 1:2-4 (NKJV)**

We will be returning to this verse later in the study.

# The SDGs and Prosperity



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 5 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

The UN give the following description to their theme of 'Prosperity' – *'We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.'*

According to them, after the global economic downturn in 2009, the world as a whole witnessed rising labour productivity and improved unemployment rates, despite large disparities across regions.

Ten years later, however, in 2019, the global economy again slowed – with the lowest growth since 2009. The 2020 pandemic has caused abrupt and profound changes, slowing the economy even further.

According to the Legatum Prosperity Index 2021, Denmark is the most prosperous country in the world and South Sudan the least prosperous. The UK is thirteenth in the index, and the USA twentieth. The Legatum Prosperity Index is a tool for transformation. It offers a unique insight into how prosperity occurs and changes across the world by considering 11 'pillars of prosperity'. It offers the following observation:

*'Prosperity is built by deliberate choices to develop a society that works for everyone – an inclusive society, with a strong social contract that protects the fundamental liberties and security of each individual. It is driven by an open economy that harnesses the ideas and talents of the people of a nation. This in turn builds an enabling environment for all to flourish by fulfilling their unique potential and playing their part in strengthening their families, communities, and nations. A prosperous society is not just about what we're getting, but about who we are becoming – individually and together.'*

You can find out more about the Legatum Prosperity Index by visiting its website at this address **[www.prosperity.com](http://www.prosperity.com)**

The 2021 United Nations Trade and Development Conference stated that human development in recent decades has been accompanied by rapid changes in technology and an increasing use of digitised devices and services.

The pace of change we're experiencing seems likely to accelerate as a result of 'frontier technologies' such as artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology and nanotechnology. These advances have already brought enormous benefits – as highlighted by the rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines.

But rapid technological development can have serious downsides if they outpace the ability of societies to adapt. There are fears, for example, that jobs are disappearing as more economic activity becomes automated, and that social media is exacerbating divisions and propagating anxiety and doubt. There are concerns, too, that frontier technologies will further widen inequalities or create new ones.

Although these issues have been voiced in developed countries, the implications could be even more serious for developing countries. It's quite possible that poor communities and countries will end up overwhelmed or left behind.

# Devotion

Written by Simon Dunsmore



**CLICK THROUGH SLIDES 6-8**



**DECIDE HOW BEST TO READ BETWEEN YOU AS A GROUP  
(ONE PERSON OR TAKE TURNS)**

**Note for Leader — The text for the devotion appears in the Participants Workbook as well as across slides 6-8 of the Powerpoint presentation. Your group may find it easier to read from their workbooks.**

Prosperity, like love, is a relative term. Its meaning shifts across contexts. Here in our western, materialistic and predominantly secular culture we tend to associate prosperity with financial success and a lavish lifestyle.

However, for the majority world, economic insecurity and limited access to the fundamental necessities of life often result in lives lived out in desperate poverty. For these nations, the definition of prosperity can take on a new and entirely different meaning.

In this context, prosperity can simply mean surviving.

In 1954, American psychologist Abraham Maslow published his theory of the hierarchy of needs. His famous pyramid prioritises the elements that people require to thrive or prosper.

With the base of the pyramid describing basic physiological needs such as food, water and sleep, Maslow theorised that before anyone can progress to the higher steps of safety, love, esteem and — ultimately — self-realisation, the conditions of the level below must first be met.

There's no doubt that, regardless of our culture, social status or economic situation, there are physical elements that human beings need to survive — with sustenance and shelter ranking high on the list. However, from a biblical standpoint, Maslow's theory could be seen as sadly lacking.

Jesus, quoting from **Deuteronomy 8:3**, says, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God' (**Matthew 4:4**). His words introduce an aspect that Maslow never considered.

As believers, it's unlikely that we would disagree about the importance of spiritual sustenance, but how does this help the African farmer whose crops have failed and who is unable to feed his family, or the refugee who's been driven from the security of her home due to conflict?

Surely, no matter how eloquently the Gospel message is delivered, the immediate concern for physical succour would appear to outweigh those of someone's eternal soul.

So how should the missionary labouring overseas — or those at home providing support — present a God of love and compassion?

It is noteworthy that Jesus didn't say that man doesn't need bread to live, He simply stated that people have other needs that also require sustenance.

Regardless of our physical condition, geographical location or financial status, to truly prosper, people also need psychological and spiritual nourishment.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** shows that man is a tripartite being. We are more than flesh and blood. In fact, the Scriptures order our spirit and soul over that of our body or physical being. This is where Maslow's secular theory begins to fail, having predominantly focused on the physical needs of human beings.

As Christians, however, we may be equally guilty in our approach. In our passion to see God's Word preached to those who haven't heard its life-transforming message, we can sometimes neglect the equally important element of practical support.

It is one thing for the seed of the Gospel to be sown. However, for it to grow and bear fruit, the whole person must be nourished, fed and cared for. If we are to truly see our neighbour prosper and thrive, mission must be holistic.

Holistic or 'integral' mission is a term indicating that, when it comes to Christian mission, God is concerned with the whole person, and the whole community. His care encompasses body, soul *and* spirit.

If Christians are to reveal God's heart for the nations, then we cannot just concentrate on one aspect.

# Review



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 9**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

- What does it mean to 'prosper'?
- How might the interpretation of prosperity differ within a developing world context?
- What should mission look like within the context of prosperity?
- What is the difference between a prosperous and a fulfilling life?



**DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP**

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# MAF Story



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 10 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

Here at MAF we fly to some of the planet's poorest areas and work with other organisations to help those affected most by physical and spiritual poverty.

Poverty is a word that's used a lot, with a number of different definitions. 'Poverty', according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is 'the state of being extremely poor' or 'the state of being inferior in quality or insufficient in amount'.

Possessing little, in terms of material possessions or income, is a common feature of life for many living in remote or isolated areas. This is particularly true in places where people have been affected by conflict or have been displaced due to circumstances out of their control. Living in poverty — to those of us blessed with abundance — seems the polar opposite of being prosperous.

Through MAF's flights and our partnership with others, we are seeing a positive change in the lives of those who've been displaced and forced into poverty, by giving them the tools and support to rebuild their lives and communities.

One example, in Uganda, concerns MAF's work with a number of organisations seeking to meet the significant needs of those living in the refugee camps. Many have fled there to avoid the conflict in neighbouring South Sudan. In this video, you'll hear from three organisations that MAF flies to help bring prosperity out of poverty.



'The refugees come in through Nimule, cross the border there, so the biggest the biggest camp in the world, some, some of the others that are nearly as big are right in this area.'

'I came here because of the war. It spread all over South Sudan. We came so many people, vehicles, motorcycles. We scattered like nothing.'

'On a daily basis MAF is flying into usually several of the locations surrounding the refugee camps. It's one of the three largest refugee crises in the world going on right now and so there's many many many organisations that are trying to meet the desperate humanitarian needs.'

'Uganda has been recognised for the unique refugee programme. They are given a piece of land, so because of that, they are able to do some cultivation. They are able to do other livelihood interventions. Most importantly, they are free to access jobs. They are free to access business opportunities.'

'When you put an idea, an investment, a kind of seed, build some idea in somebody, that idea can be able to grow, and can change that individual, can change the family, can change even the entire community.'

'Tutapona means 'we will be healed', so many of them feel hopeless, so many of them feel like there's no future. They kind of get put in an area where they have no friends, no family, and so for them to see that there's a whole community of people that are experiencing the exact same things that they are, I feel like it's that, that grounding for them to be able to start their new life again. I think that trauma carries one of the foundations for recovery for refugees.'

'Tutapona, you people are like our grandmothers. You are like our fathers. You talk to us. I was calling my husband — "Now I am very fat." "He said "How?" I said, "Now we are okay."'

'When you visit a settlement, busy trading centres, refugees are doing businesses. They are rearing animals to complement the supply that they get. At the start, our malnutrition rate among the refugees was almost at 20%. As I talk now, it has reduced to below 8%.'

'You cannot imagine, someone who is a refugee coming out and saying, "I want to save for tomorrow because I don't know how tomorrow looks like. And I want to take care of my future, I want to take care of the future of my children, by saving the little I have today." We see that it is happening and it really encourages us. Some will give testimony of people who lost their parents, others lost their spouses, but they are here. Those painful stories, when we talk to them, they say, "We now have hope." My hope? I have so many hopes. My hope for next year, maybe. For me, I left my school. Diploma in Education, half. Now my hope for next year is just to finish my education. Maybe, if God is there.'

'I think if, I think if all I did was just drop people off, and picked them up and never heard the backstories, I might not understand how significant the work is that we are being involved in. A few times I've gotten to be able to go into the refugee settlements with them and see what's going on. That makes it all worth it to me, so it's, it's really, to me it's a very significant and very impactful part of what we're doing.'

'All of our camps are located in very remote areas. I'm really thankful to MAF for this opportunity, especially to come and see our staff and work with our teams, yeah.'

'We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the team of MAF for all their support.'  
'MAF has been our major partner. We wouldn't have done a lot, if not for MAF. So they have facilitated us to do our work. Thank you to MAF.'

# Reflection



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 11**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

The World Bank states that *'For almost 25 years, extreme poverty was steadily declining. However, global extreme poverty rose in 2020 for the first time in over 20 years as the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic compounded the forces of conflict and climate change, which were already slowing poverty reduction progress.'*

- When you read statements like those above, what effect does this have on your view of the Church's responsibility to bring positive change?
- What is God's heart for the nations when it comes to the concept of prosperity?



**DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP**

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# Repentance

**Note for Leader — This section is a more personal reflection, not a discussion. Give participants the option of a time of quiet personal reflection during the study, or suggestion they use the questions (in their workbook) and reflect at home after the study**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 12**



**READ BETWEEN YOU AS A GROUP**



‘The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.’

**John 10:10 (NKJV)**

‘I was naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”’

**Matthew 25:36-40 (NKJV)**

- Consider how these two portions of Scripture relate to each other and our role in partnering with God to see others enter into an abundant life.
  - Take some time to seek God about what prosperity means for you personally.
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# Prayer



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 13**



**ASK GROUP MEMBERS TO READ ALOUD (IN WORKBOOKS TOO)**

- Pray that the United Nations' aim for the world, that 'all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives', is something that can be achieved in our lifetime.
- Pray that, as Christians, we can bear witness to what it means for our souls to 'prosper' through a relationship with Jesus. Pray too that, when showing people the love of Christ, 'prosperity' isn't just something that considers physical needs, but includes the spiritual as well.
- Pray for the work going on throughout the developing world which MAF assists and enables. Work that strives to see remote and isolated people prosper where they are — giving them access to life's essentials.
- Pray for those who have lost everything through conflict or natural disaster and have been displaced. May they receive access to the resources needed to rebuild their lives in safety and harmony.



**FOR THE SAKE OF THE  
WORLD**

After today's study, please consider becoming part of a *For the Sake of the World* prayer group. To find out more, or to set up your own group, please visit <http://forthesakeoftheworld.com>



**ASK PARTICIPANTS IF THEY HAVE ANY OTHER PRAYERS TO ADD TO THIS LIST (SPACE IN THEIR WORKBOOKS TO WRITE ANY DOWN)**

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**PAUSE AND HAVE A TIME OF PRAYER**

# Response



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 14 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**



**VIDEO INCLUDES PARTICIPANT ACTIVITY (THERES A SPACE IN THEIR WORKBOOKS TO WRITE THEIR THOUGHTS IN)**

## Video Transcript

So, what does it mean to be prosperous? How does the idea of 'prosperity' differ when we think of it from a Christian view, rather than a worldly one?

*As we heard earlier, 'It is one thing for the seed of the Gospel to be sown, but for it to grow and bear fruit, the whole being in which it is planted must be nourished, fed, and cared for. If we are to truly see our neighbour prosper and thrive, mission must be holistic.'* In the MAF video you will have seen how, with our help, this approach is being adopted in Uganda's refugee camps. People who have lost everything are being helped to attain both physical and spiritual well-being.

The apostle John was keen that the souls of those to whom he wrote in **3 John** prosper. We too should pray for anyone we know whose circumstances currently prevent them from being prosperous — whether they're from our own community or one of the nations throughout the world.

- Think about the people you know personally — or those within your local community — who are struggling to prosper or are living with the effects of physical or spiritual poverty. How can you help improve your neighbours' lives and circumstances? Is there something practical you can do? Can you intercede for them by bringing their needs before God?

Why not jot down the names of anyone who comes to mind, then write down any actions you'd like to take? Tell a friend or someone in your church so they can keep you accountable.

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Oh, and here's another chance for you to get a free MAF boarding pass to continue your journey with us. Come and see more of MAF's vital work around the world with our Discovery Air Pass. Every couple of months you'll receive updates by post or email from our pilots, along with real-life stories, fascinating facts and opportunities to support our work. Sign up today at this address [www.maf-uk.org/discover-now](http://www.maf-uk.org/discover-now)

We hope you enjoyed this study on 'Prosperity' and were challenged to consider what response you could make to what you have discovered.

The next study in this series looks at the fourth of the United Nations' '5 Ps' of sustainable development — 'Peace'.

Before that, if you'd like to hear more about how MAF helps ensure that isolated people can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives, visit this address [www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore) to find another couple of stories that we hope you'll enjoy.

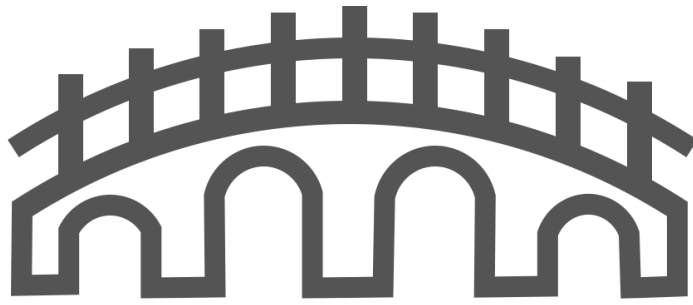
## Find out more

**Note for Leader — We have lots of other examples of how MAF helps to advance the Sustainable Development Agenda through our work and ministry, and through partnership with other organisations seeking to reach the most isolated communities on earth.**

**If you have time, or your group would like to continue their journey in this session of the Bible Study and find out more, then please visit [www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore) for access to more inspiring stories and videos.**

# SESSION 5

## Building Bridges



# Introduction



**START POWERPOINT FROM SLIDE 1 AND CLICK THROUGH TO SLIDE 2 TO WELCOME PEOPLE**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 3 AND THE PLAY BUTTON ON THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

Welcome to study number five in this series as we continue our journey together with MAF around the world, exploring the next of the United Nations' '5 Ps' of Sustainable Development – 'Peace'.

This study is called 'Building Bridges'. The term 'building bridges' can refer to a peace-making gesture, establishing a relationship, or fostering an understanding and appreciation of cultural differences. For Christians, 'building bridges' can also symbolise the role Jesus plays as the reconciling bridge between man and God, as He brings us back into a relationship with God our Father.

The nature of conflict and violence around the world has changed substantially since the United Nations was founded in October 1945. Since then, the number of people dying as a result of conflict has decreased, as conflicts today are often waged between domestic groups rather than states. However, the impact of this new era of conflict – particularly on the world's poorest and most isolated communities – still represents a crisis with which the world must engage. The impact of displacement due to unrest is at its highest level since these statistics were first recorded.

So, what does 'peace' look like, and how can we achieve this and help free people from the fear of conflict and violence? This study will consider this issue and reflect on the United Nations' aim of creating a 'culture of peace' through its Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This study will challenge you to consider how, as Christians, we can begin to see what a 'culture of peace' would look like from our understanding of the Bible, and the difference between the world's definition of 'peace' and the many definitions of God's 'shalom', such as wholeness, peace, wellbeing.

MAF came into being at the end of World War II with the vision to use aircraft for peace, rather than destruction. Today, that vision continues as the organisation provides the most isolated people in the world with life's essentials and helps bring peace and reconciliation to seemingly hopeless situations.

Later you will see the incredible story of the 'Widows of Peace' who, with MAF's help, are bringing reconciliation to women from rival tribes whose lives have been affected by devastating tribal conflict in their region of Kenya.



By considering what it means to be reconciled to God, we will think about what needs to occur for our earthly relationships to be restored whenever there is conflict or disagreement. We hope you enjoy this study, and pray that you will feel God's peace in your hearts as you continue your journey with MAF.

# Scripture



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 4**



**ASK SOMEONE TO READ THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE ALOUD**

'This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.'

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NLT)**

We will be returning to this verse later in the study.

## The SDGs and Peace



## CLICK ONTO SLIDE 5 AND PLAY THE VIDEO

### Video Transcript

The United Nations gives the following description to their theme of 'Peace':

*'We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.'*

As we mentioned earlier, the nature of conflict and violence in the world has altered substantially since the United Nations was founded.

The United Nations states that homicides are becoming more frequent in some parts of the world, while gender-based attacks are increasing globally. The long-term impact of interpersonal violence — including violence against children — is devastating.

Statistics from the United Nations reveal that:

- In 2019, the number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 79.5 million – the highest level recorded since these statistics were first collected.
- Every day, 100 civilians — including women and children — are killed in armed conflicts, despite protection under international law. This translates to an average of 12 civilian deaths per 100,000 people each year. One in eight of those who die is a woman or a child.
- Children are regularly exposed to multiple forms of violence, many of which go unrecognised and unreported.
- Nearly 80% of children from the ages of 1 to 14 were subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or violent form of physical discipline in 69 mostly low and middle-income countries, according to data available from 2012 to 2019.
- In 2016, children accounted for almost a third of detected trafficking victims worldwide. About 23% were girls and 7% were boys.
- Concerning forced displacement, the World Bank reports that this is a developing world crisis – one that must be addressed with collective action.
  - » There were 82.4 million forcibly displaced people by the end of 2020.
  - » Of these, 86% are hosted in developing countries.
  - » Over three-quarters of refugees have been displaced for at least 5 years.
  - » More than two-thirds of all refugees worldwide came from just 5 countries.

Because conflict today takes on many different guises, to achieve the peaceful, just and inclusive societies that the United Nations desires has become increasingly difficult.

As Christians, however, we can turn to the Bible to help us understand how we should approach this and make an appropriate response.

# Devotion

Written by Chris Macrae



**CLICK THROUGH SLIDES 6-9**



**DECIDE HOW BEST TO READ BETWEEN YOU AS A GROUP  
(ONE PERSON OR TAKE TURNS)**

**Note for Leader — The text for the devotion appears in the Participants Workbook as well as across slides 6-9 of the Powerpoint presentation. Your group may find it easier to read from their workbooks.**

'Peace' is a term that can conjure up many meanings, depending on the context in which the term is used, or the experience of the person using the term. In its simplest form, 'peace' can mean 'the absence of war'. In other words, the two concepts of 'peace' and 'war' are so far apart from each other that they are merely viewed as opposites.

However, in most situations it isn't as easy as that to define what peace means or what it represents for different people groups or cultures.

Indeed, the United Nations emphasised the need to adopt a wide definition of 'peace' when it introduced a resolution on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace in 1999.

In 2014, Ban Ki-Moon, the United Nations' eighth Secretary General, said, 'We know that peace cannot be decreed solely through treaties — it must be nurtured through the dignity, rights and capacities of every man and woman.' He went on to say that peace means access to education, health and essential services — especially for girls and women.

This desire for peace to prevail throughout the world is being played out against a backdrop of war, conflict, violent extremism, hatred and terrorism.

It's disturbing when you scroll through the latest news on your tablet or phone, or switch on the TV only to hear about the latest conflict or act of violence. It threatens people's desire to see peace prevail or — to put it another way from a Christian perspective — to see good overcome evil.

In 2014, Ban Ki-Moon also said, 'But I am convinced that our strongest arsenal in the face of these threats is not weapons or missiles or guns... It is our shared values... our

common vision for peace, development and human rights... our universal aspiration for a meaningful culture of peace.'

As Christians, we can understand what a 'culture of peace' could look like from our understanding of the Bible. In Genesis, we see God create a perfect world, only for that perfection and peace to be marred and broken by sin.

We can also see from the example of Jesus what a culture of peace could mean as His words and actions show what the Kingdom of God looks like.

We learn too about the importance of reconciliation between brother and sister and between human beings and God when we read the New Testament epistles. It is this ministry of reconciliation, outlined in **2 Corinthians 5:17-25**, that gives us the true pathway to the peace God intends for us as believers.

The message contained in this biblical culture of peace is one of a restored relationship with God through Jesus. As followers of Him, it is our God-given role to reconcile others to our Lord and Saviour.

We do this through the proclamation of the Gospel — assuring others of the forgiveness of sin that's available through Christ. It is only through a restored relationship with God that true peace can be experienced.

Jesus' words in the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**), to 'go and make disciples of all nations', shows how we can achieve this aim.

The Bible shows that peace is more than simply the absence of war. Indeed, the Hebrew term '*shalom*', which is mainly translated as meaning 'peace', can also mean 'harmony', 'wholeness', 'completeness', 'prosperity' and 'welfare'.

In **Romans 14:17**, Paul says, 'For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit' (NLT).

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, 'God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God' (**Matthew 5:9**, NLT). These peacemakers are those who promote God's peace or '*shalom*'. What Jesus is saying is that those who put their faith and trust in Him, and pursue peace, will be rewarded eternally by being called children of God. People who are peacemakers reflect God the Father's character of peace and joy.

## Review



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 10**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

- Thinking about peace in the context of 'shalom', what is a 'peacemaker'?
- What does it mean to be reconciled to God? Why do we need this reconciliation to occur?
- In order to find peace or to make peace with someone else, what steps need to occur for an earthly relationship to be restored? In what ways does this restoration compare to being reconciled to God?



**DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP**

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# MAF Story



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 11 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

As fighting raged across Europe during World War II, Christian airmen and women from the UK, the USA and Australia began to dream of peace. Peace that would bring hope, stability, and a chance for aircraft to be used for good rather than conflict. Using their wartime experience, skills and strong Christian faith, a handful of inspirational pioneers created a movement that would shape the future of mission aviation and pave the way for aircraft to reach the most isolated corners of the globe. In doing so, they were able to show the love of God, rather than the hatred of men.

This is how MAF started — with a vision to use aircraft for peace, rather than war. Seven decades later, MAF continues to hold true to this vision, helping to connect people and communities to bring peace and reconciliation in what were originally hopeless situations.

This video from Kenya tells the story of how MAF is helping missionaries develop a peace project called Sauti Moja, which means 'One Voice' in Swahili. It encourages women from rival tribes, who would otherwise be marginalised and embittered by their widowhood, to speak up for peace instead.

It was evening time. My husband and I and all our children were sitting in our house. A man came in with a gun and killed my husband right in front of us. I screamed and the neighbours came. We had to leave our home and land. We carried nothing but our children.

In Masabit, Kenya, there's been much conflict between two tribes. Been going on more than 20 years. More than 250 people have been killed. They couldn't graze together, they couldn't plough their fields, they were afraid to go to their farm. Children were afraid to go to school. So it totally permeated their lives, led to considerable poverty as well as fear. And then retributive and revenge killings. In the past, peace efforts among the community leaders had brought little change. Sauti Moja began a programme to facilitate the reconciliation between widows and other women affected by the conflict.

Sauti Moja is a Swahili name that means 'one voice'. We chose women with the help of the local community who were widows of conflict, women whose husbands had been killed, who had lost their livestock. These pastoralist women were given four goats and one donkey. The peace action is to ask them to take that first-born female offspring and pass it on to another needy widow in the tribe they're in conflict with. Before, we didn't even want to see each other. We would say, 'we have seen the enemy.' Now, after the intervention of peace we are brothers and sisters. My son was ambushed and killed in the conflict. I was so depressed that I didn't leave my house for four months. When I was given an animal, I felt that someone cared for me. My heart was lifted up.

They didn't know each other when they started the project. Sauti Moja facilitated opportunity for these women to come together and get to know one another. They took it to another level — that relationship was something they owned. They would attend each other's weddings, naming ceremonies, the outreach to the community began. We've become such close sisters that when we meet each other we cry and embrace each other.

For me, the greatest joy has been to see that the elders have taken it up, they institutionalised some restorative justice. The men have really embraced the peace that the women have brought to the community. I think it's really critical that we break down the barriers between people, we get to know each other, we get to know each other's fears, their joys, the causes of celebration. I am very confident that these women, with their experience, are very credible authentic witnesses to other communities in Kenya. But that also applies internationally — getting to know each other, breaking down the barriers.

Before, someone was killed every day, but now peace has come. I want to extend this peace to other people affected by conflict. I want to tell them my story. Peace is an essential part of life that we cannot live without.

MAF has supported Tim and Lyn since they began their work in Marsabit in 1998. There's not a lot of aid agencies up here. The roads are terrible. You can deliver aid in easier communities than Marsabit, but to do it here is difficult. MAF makes it easy, they have helped us facilitate our work in so many ways. I look forward to using MAF more as the years go on. If we were going to do peace work in some of these more remote communities, like it can be two days by vehicle to even get there. By MAF, we can be there in a couple of hours. We'll be able to use this and it'll further our peace work, I really do believe that.

The Widows of Peace are using their stories to spread reconciliation among other tribes in conflict in the Marsabit area and beyond. They are organising Peace Clubs in primary schools to pass on their message to the next generation.

# Reflection



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 12**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

- Looking back at the statistics in the 'The SDGs and Peace' section — when you read the statistics and think about people around the world living in conflict, or fleeing conflict or violence, what emotions does it conjure up within you?



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 13**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

- Think about the Hebrew word '*shalom*' and its many meanings — 'harmony', 'wholeness', 'completeness', 'prosperity' and 'welfare'. What steps could you take in your own walk with God to help you employ these ideals in your life?
- When you are in conflict with someone or have a disagreement with them, what's your natural reaction? Is it to deal with the situation head-on to try and resolve it, or to run away from it? (There are no right or wrong answers here!) Where do you think that tendency comes from?



**DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP**

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# Repentance

**Note for Leader — This section is a more personal reflection, not a discussion. Give participants the option of a time of quiet personal reflection during the study, or suggestion they use the questions (in their workbook) and reflect at home after the study**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 14**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**



‘For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.’

**Romans 14:17 (NLT)**

- Take time to think about what Paul says about peace and joy in **Romans 14:17**. Consider too what God is revealing to you about the culture of peace that exists when we are reconciled to Him through Jesus’ death on the cross.
- Think about someone in your life with whom you are not at peace. Maybe it’s someone with whom you have a disagreement or a difference of opinion. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you find ways to reconcile and to be a witness of God’s ‘shalom’.

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# Prayer



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 15**



**ASK GROUP MEMBERS TO READ ALOUD (IN WORKBOOKS TOO)**

- Pray for those forced to flee from their homes and communities due to conflict and violence. Pray they will find a safe place to settle and that they will be welcomed when they get there. Pray too that they can return home once peace reigns there.
- Pray for families that have been torn apart by war. May those who are involved in conflict embrace a culture of peace and let go of their disagreements and grudges. Pray for an end to violent extremism and terrorism.
- Pray for the peacemakers, whoever they may be and wherever they seek to reconcile those engaged in conflict. May they know the peace of God's 'shalom' in all they do.
- Uphold those involved in the Sauti Moja project in Kenya. Pray that, through its work, the initiative will continue to bring warring communities together in peace. Pray too for the women who are leading by example in their communities and showing how lives and communities can be transformed through reconciliation.
- Pray for MAF as it provides flights that enable peace and reconciliation to reach some of the world's remotest regions.



**FOR THE SAKE OF THE  
WORLD**

After today's study, please consider becoming part of a *For the Sake of the World* prayer group. To find out more, or to set up your own group, please visit <http://forthesakeoftheworld.com>



**ASK PARTICIPANTS IF THEY HAVE ANY OTHER PRAYERS TO ADD TO THIS LIST (SPACE IN THEIR WORKBOOKS TO WRITE ANY DOWN)**

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**PAUSE AND HAVE A TIME OF PRAYER**

# Response



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 16 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**



**VIDEO INCLUDES PARTICIPANT ACTIVITY (THERES A SPACE IN THEIR WORKBOOKS TO WRITE THEIR THOUGHTS IN)**

## Video Transcript

For those of us who live in well-connected, resource-rich, politically stable and 'peaceful' parts of the world, it can be easy to take such benefits and freedoms for granted, and ignore the reality of those living in isolation, fear and instability. But there are also people in our own country, community even, who face conflict or violence and who are not living in 'peace' or able to enjoy the aspects of God's 'shalom' in their lives.

- What action can you pledge to take to help raise awareness of those living in other parts of the world – some of whom we've highlighted in this study – people who live with conflict or in the wake of violence?
- Now think about your own country or community. What can you do to help people experiencing violence in their community, or who need to hear about the peace offered by God through the Gospel?

Write these actions down and keep it with you to remind you of your pledges. Tell one of your friends or someone in your church so they can help keep you accountable.

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If you haven't already, we'd like to extend the opportunity to sign up to continue your journey with MAF. We'd love to show you more of the work we do and the impact we have via our Discovery Air Pass.

'Fly' with MAF from country to country and find out what it's like to live, work and serve in some of the most isolated places on earth. Every couple of months, you'll receive updates by post or email from our pilots, along with real-life stories, fascinating facts and opportunities to support our work. Check in now at the address on the screen **[www.maf-uk.org/discover-now](http://www.maf-uk.org/discover-now)**.

We hope you enjoyed this study on 'Peace' and were challenged to consider what response you can make to what you have heard, seen and discovered.

The next study – the final one in this series – considers the last of the United Nations' '5 Ps' of sustainable development – 'Partnership'. It's something that's at the heart of everything MAF does.

Before we explore this, if you'd like to hear more about how MAF seeks to advance peace and reconciliation through its work and ministry, visit this address **[www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore)** to find a couple of other stories that we hope you'll enjoy.



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 17 (END OF THE STUDY)**

# Find out more

**Note for Leader — We have lots of other examples of how MAF helps to advance the Sustainable Development Agenda through our work and ministry, and through partnership with other organisations seeking to reach the most isolated communities on earth.**

**If you have time, or your group would like to continue their journey in this session of the Bible Study and find out more, then please visit**

**[www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore)**

**for access to more inspiring stories and videos.**

# SESSION 6

Stronger Together



# Introduction



**START POWERPOINT FROM SLIDE 1 AND CLICK THROUGH TO SLIDE 2 TO WELCOME PEOPLE**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 3 AND THE PLAY BUTTON ON THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

Welcome back to the '*He saw it was good*' Bible study from MAF. You've almost made it to your final destination on your journey with us. We hope you've enjoyed your flight!

This final study is called 'Stronger Together' and will look at the last of the United Nations' '5 Ps' of sustainable development — 'Partnership'.

Partnership is a key word in the MAF family. In fact, it's one that comes up in almost every conversation, presentation or mention of MAF.

We fly more than 2,000 international and local partner organisations — providing life-enhancing access in some of the world's most isolated places.

Without partnership with MAF, many of these organisations and NGOs couldn't deliver the life-saving work they do due to impassable roads or immense geographical barriers.

Partnership is something that's really at the heart of MAF, and there's a clear biblical basis for working in this way. In this study, we will think about how, as Christians, Jesus invites us to partner with Him in fulfilling His redemption plan for humanity.

You'll also hear how MAF partners with an organisation in Angola to help make land that would otherwise be too dangerous to live, work or travel on, safe!

Thinking about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda one more time, we'll hear how partnership is a key driver to achieving all 17 SDGs.

Partnership strengthens ways in which these goals can be implemented and drives the desire for people to work together. This is why the United Nations includes a stand-alone SDG — 'Partnerships for the Goals' — highlighting this.

So, for the last time in this Bible study series, grab your ticket and come on board with MAF as we embark on the final leg of our journey together!

# Scripture



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 4**



**ASK SOMEONE TO READ THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE ALOUD**

'Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.'

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)**

We will be returning to this verse later in the study.

## The SDGs and Partnership



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 5 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**

### Video Transcript

The United Nations gives the following description to its theme of 'Partnership': *'We are determined to mobilise the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalised Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of*

*strengthened global solidarity, focussed in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.'*

The United Nations points out that, pre-COVID-19, obstacles such as scarce financial resources and trade tensions had put a strain on the effectiveness of global partnerships. But, with a global pandemic compounding these problems, the obstacles were invariably heightened.

The economic impact of the pandemic has seen debt distress in a number of countries – limiting their ability to recover strongly or have fair access to resources such as vaccines.

With the ongoing climate crisis as well, their recovery will inevitably take longer. However, the United Nations also states that the COVID-19 pandemic has focused attention on the crucial role of global partnerships.

An interconnected global economy requires a global response to ensure that all countries and territories – particularly developing countries – can recover better from the mounting health, economic and environmental crises. In other words, by working in partnership, recovery should be easier.

At MAF, we're passionate about working with others – partnering with individuals and organisations to achieve better results for those living in the world's remotest and most isolated areas. Indeed, without our partners, we'd have no one to fly apart from our personnel, would reach far fewer people in need and see less lives physically and spiritually transformed. The same is true for our partners, who wouldn't be able to reach a large number of remote destinations without the help of our aircraft.

So, through our work at MAF, there's a strong link between our commitment to working in partnership and the United Nations' desire to achieve its Sustainable Development Agenda through strong global relationships.

As we turn now to look at the final devotion in this series, let's keep in mind the concept of being 'stronger together' – aware that, through collaboration, far more can be achieved than by doing things on our own.

# Devotion

Written by Victoria Fagg



**CLICK THROUGH SLIDES 6-9**



## DECIDE HOW BEST TO READ BETWEEN YOU AS A GROUP (ONE PERSON OR TAKE TURNS)

**Note for Leader — The text for the devotion appears in the Participants Workbook as well as across slides 6-9 of the Powerpoint presentation. Your group may find it easier to read from their workbooks.**

In 1966, Peter Scholtes, a young priest from Chicago's South Side, penned a song that would later become known as the anthem of the Jesus Movement.

Based on **John 13:35**, the song 'They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love' was charged with connecting young people who were disillusioned with the culture around them with their responsibility to participate in God's Kingdom work together. Partnership is powerful.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a partner as 'someone who participates in an activity or game with another person.' Partnership therefore occurs when two or more people come together in order to achieve something that they cannot achieve alone. Farmers know that teaming horses results in an ability to pull more weight than the same number of animals can pull individually.

**Ecclesiastes 4.9-12** tells us that two are better than one and, in **Luke 10**, we see Jesus send His disciples out in groups of two. In **Exodus 17:8-13**, Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands as he prayed, which in turn enabled Joshua and the Israelites to overcome their enemies.

As believers, we are called to partner with Christ (**1 Corinthians 1:9**) and one another (**1 John 1:3**) to see His Kingdom come. Everyone brings their own individual skills and gifts to the mix.

The apostle Paul illustrates this in **Romans 12:4-5**, 'A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. That's how it is with us. There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another' (CEV).

If we are thinking about the body, perhaps a more connective word for partnership is 'collaboration'. When we collaborate, we are purposely co-operating with others.

MAF's integrated ministry is a collaboration with some 2,000 partner organisations to help bring help, hope and healing to remote and isolated communities across the world.

It is through these collaborations that those who are in need can experience what's known as the 'Five Marks of Mission' — marks which were first developed by the Anglican Consultative Council in 1984.

I've paraphrased them below:

- To hear the Good News of the Kingdom (evangelism).
- To be taught, baptised and nurtured as new believers (teaching/discipleship).
- To have your human needs met by loving service (compassion)



- To have advocates seeking transformation of unjust structures of society and challenge violence of every kind — pursuing peace and reconciliation (justice)
- To experience support in safeguarding the integrity of creation and the sustainment of all life on earth' (care for creation)

Based on the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:19-20**), these five marks of mission reveal God's love and missionary heart for all of His creation. The Scripture passage shows that partnership goes beyond 'us and Him', or indeed 'you and me'.

According to Christian author Vinoth Ramachandra, the verses also highlight the 'being' and 'doing', the 'spiritual' and the 'physical', the 'individual' and the 'social', 'justice' and 'mercy', 'preaching truth' and 'practising the truth'.

Jesus made a way for us to be reconciled to Him (**John 3:16**), and He invites us to partner with Him — and others — to share that redemption through our evangelism and social involvement.

This invite extends beyond organisations such as MAF — it is for you, too!

As you embrace the call to 'love your neighbour' in a time where polarisation seems at an all-time high, be mindful of the marks of mission mentioned above and do all you can to collaborate with other believers.

Play your part while celebrating what others can contribute. Remember, we are better together.

And let's pray that, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, we will be as one, as Jesus and the Father are one. By doing so, we'll bring glory to the Father and be a witness to others.

They will know we are Christians by our love!

## Review



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 10**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** illustrates the strength and benefit of partnering with others.

- What does partnership look like in your life? Would anyone observing you know that you're a Christian by your love?
- What steps can you take to intentionally collaborate with others to see God's Kingdom break forth here on earth?



## DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP

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# MAF Story

**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 11 AND PLAY THE VIDEO**

## Video Transcript

As an organisation, MAF wants to live out Jesus' invitation to partner with Him. We do this, in part, by collaborating with others. There are many examples we could show you of how MAF works with others to achieve its own goals, as well as the goals of the individuals, groups and organisations with which we partner.

Here's just one example from our work in Angola, where we partner with The HALO Trust. We hope you will find it inspiring.

It's been nearly 20 years since Angola's civil war ended, but the country remains riddled with landmines that continue to devastate the lives of ordinary people.

In 2021, work started in Cuando Cubango Province, in the south, to rid the area of 153 minefields. But it wouldn't be possible for HALO to do its work without MAF, which has been providing flights and round-the-clock casualty evacuations for HALO since 1994.

One of MAF's pilots, Marijn Goud, flew the HALO team to Jamba Airport in Cuando Cubango to evaluate suspected minefields across the province.

HALO estimates that it will take five years to completely clear this area, which includes two potential minefields either side of Jamba Airport. Let's hear from Marijn himself as he picks up the story.

Good morning. We are here in Jamba Luiana in the far south-east corner of Angola, close to Zambia and Namibia. This time I'm not here with a medical team, but with a de-mining team from HALO Trust. Arrived here on Saturday. Yesterday was a slow day. So, HALO is here to start off a five-year project to de-mine the whole of Cuando Cubango, the entire province. This province was home to a lot of conflicts during the war years. And because of that, there's still a lot of minefields. The province still has 153 active minefields right now. In this area, we have one minefield to the north still. There's one suspect to the west. There's one suspect to the south and there's two suspects close to the airport. One on one side, and one on the other side. Hopefully we'll go there later on.

We came to Jamba, just to re-evaluate several known minefields found in an earlier phase by HALO, back in 2005. The current purpose is to find out what the actual status of these tasks is, information about possible recent accidents that have happened between 2005 and 2021. That's practically the purpose that has brought us here, to Jamba.

We were informed by the local administration about an accident that has happened the day before we arrived here in Jamba. It's about three brothers of the same family who, when they tried to make a fire due to the cold, something exploded, resulting in 3 victims — 2 brothers were wounded and one unfortunately lost his life. We also heard about another accident which happened last month, another 3 people who went and picked up some explosive ordnance in an area - that's currently being inspected by my colleagues. There possibly could have been a weapons or ammunition storage area, we don't know. But we will wait for the info they return with to finish this issue here in Jamba.

These many years after the war, like almost 20 years after the war, still accidents happen fairly often – too often. Yeah, that's why we're here.

So we just arrived at the airport of Jamba. This time, thank God, it's nice and green. It has rained a lot. And the guys there, underneath the plane are trying to figure out where to go. There's two suspect areas. Just to clarify, the airstrip is safe. There's one suspect area which is on, the strip is like this, it's on that side. A little bit off the end. And they've talked about another suspect area off the other side. This is a strip of 8-10,000 feet — very long. So for us, landing here safely definitely is not an issue.

We are here at the Jamba airstrip to specifically try to get some more information on suspect areas around the airstrip. Although we have some information from a demining team who worked here in the past, but we need to update this after all these years. And we think the military who arrives here in a bit can be useful to get us more info. It's been said that there is an area where they have found storage of different explosives, so we need some more info to get a clearer picture about the possible mining that happened around this airport. We are waiting on some more info and will give an update any moment, thank you.

Just on our way to one of the suspect areas. We have indicated some coordinates of where to go. This, right away, gives me a good opportunity to have a look at the runway. Some pretty high grass and stuff, but to see how usable this end is. This is a bit we haven't really used so far – we've been using the other side. But hey, this is another couple of thousand feet we might be able to add to the usable length.

Did you have a good visit there?

This visit was good. We found out about an area with lots of projectiles which can be a possible future task for our explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team, who need to first complete a solid survey of the area. And who knows, possibly in the near future send s team to destruct all these ordnances. And that way, prevent another death because of these things laying around. That’s our vision, which we will see through to the end.

Getting onto the end of the Jamba trip here. We move onto another couple of places. Very successful quick trip. The tea has been able to confirm most of the suspect places. So all of these places they will go back to and they will send teams in, in the near future, to go and take care of it and declare is completely mine-free.

# Reflection



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 12**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**

Unity within the body is often contested and isn’t easy. Too often, there seems to be a ‘scarcity mindset’, with people and organisations afraid that, in partnering with others, they might lose out.

Differences around theology and expressions of worship can also prevent us from stepping over the denominational line to stand alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ.

- Take a moment to reflect on any barriers you might be experiencing that are hindering any partnerships for God’s Kingdom.



**DISCUSS THIS QUESTION AS A GROUP**

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# Repentance

**Note for Leader — This section is a more personal reflection, not a discussion. Give participants the option of a time of quiet personal reflection during the study, or suggestion they use the questions (in their workbook) and reflect at home after the study**



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 13**



**READ ALOUD TO THE GROUP**



'...you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light.'

**1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)**

- Mediate on this verse, recognising that God refers to His people in the plural. Ask God to show you His bigger picture at work within your local setting and neighbourhood.
- Consider writing a letter of apology to Jesus for any way you might have avoided partnering with other believers because of cultural or theological differences, or the fear of losing out. Keep the letter as a reminder to think more collaboratively.

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# Prayer



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 14**



**ASK GROUP MEMBERS TO READ ALOUD (IN WORKBOOKS TOO)**

- Pray that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic won't slow down the ability and desire for countries to work together to advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda. Pray for the leaders of governments to continue to prioritise this goal as they draft policy.
- Pray that the inequalities around the world between the rich and poor won't increase further. Pray too that the work of organisations like MAF and other non-governmental organisations, aid agencies and Christian missions will help close this gap.
- Pray for The HALO Trust as its de-mining personnel continue making areas of land safe for people to enjoy, live and work on once more. Pray for continued safety in the vital work they do, aided by MAF aircraft.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will open doors for each of us to partner with others in our networks, churches or communities so we can share the Gospel where we are.
- As we come to the end of this Bible study, pray that the topics covered and the insights gained will help us to reflect on the future of the planet, the needs of those living in its remotest areas, and the need for Christians to feed into and influence the Sustainable Development Agenda.



**FOR THE SAKE OF THE  
WORLD**

After today's study, please consider becoming part of a *For the Sake of the World* prayer group. To find out more, or to set up your own group, please visit <http://forthesakeoftheworld.com>



**ASK PARTICIPANTS IF THEY HAVE ANY OTHER PRAYERS TO ADD TO THIS LIST (SPACE IN THEIR WORKBOOKS TO WRITE ANY DOWN)**

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**PAUSE AND HAVE A TIME OF PRAYER**



So, we are now making our final approach towards the end of the 'He saw it was good' Bible study. We really hope you've enjoyed learning and reflecting with us on the topic of sustainability and have felt challenged and inspired to respond to the issues identified in the study.

Although this is the last video, it doesn't have to be the end of your journey with MAF! We'd love to give you another chance – if you haven't done so already – to receive your free MAF Discovery Air Pass. Sign up for our Discovery journey and see the world from a unique perspective. 'Fly' with us from country to country and find out what it's like to live, work and serve in some of the most isolated places on earth.

Every couple of months, you'll receive updates by post or email from our pilots, along with real-life stories, fascinating facts and opportunities to support our work. Check in at this address [www.maf-uk.org/discover-now](http://www.maf-uk.org/discover-now).

Before you disembark, though, if you'd like to hear more about how MAF partners with others to advance mutual interests, please visit this address [www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore) to find another story that we hope you will enjoy.

We'd really appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on this Bible study series so we can continue to improve and develop new resources like this – the link for the survey is here – [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MAFGBS22](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MAFGBS22)

Finally, it's 'bye from Matt', and it's 'bye from Sheonagh'. Thanks for joining us. Take care and God bless.



**CLICK ONTO SLIDE 16 (END OF THE STUDY)**

## Find out more

**Note for Leader – We have lots of other examples of how MAF helps to advance the Sustainable Development Agenda through our work and ministry, and through partnership with other organisations seeking to reach the most isolated communities on earth.**

**If you have time, or your group would like to continue their journey in this session of the Bible Study and find out more, then please visit**

**[www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore](http://www.maf-uk.org/findoutmore)**

**for access to more inspiring stories and videos.**

We would love to hear what you thought of our Bible Study! If you could spare few minutes to complete our survey we would be very grateful. The survey can be found here: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MAFGBS22](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MAFGBS22)



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