



## THE HEART OF POVERTY WITH WESS STAFFORD

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### WESS STAFFORD

- Wess Stafford's parents felt called to be missionaries to West Africa, which is where Wess grew up until he was 15 years old.
- Their village and community were committed to each other and sharing their values of love, hope, and generosity.
- Some of the most generous people in the world are the poor because they know their lives are meant for those around them.
  - If you are strong, it is to help those who are weak.
  - If you are courageous, it is for those who are frightened around you.

"Love is the most amazing thing. The more of it that you give away,  
the more of it you've got." - Wess Stafford

### EXPERIENCING POVERTY

- Living in Africa, Wess witnessed the harsh realities of poverty, where survival was based on the balance of resources.
- Locust swarms and measles outbreaks highlighted how fragile life is and the contrast between living in poverty and living with resources.
- After this, the measles virus came through and killed many of his friends, Wess realized the difference between them and it sparked his passion to fight poverty.

### EXPERIENCING ABUNDANCE

- When arriving in America, Wess first experienced New York city and realized that there were plenty of resources, food, and vaccinations for everyone!
  - For years this filled him with anger because he thought people simply didn't care.
- He later realized that people actually did care, but they just didn't know about the need.

"It's not that they don't care. They don't know, and when they know, they are the most incredibly generous people, maybe in all of history." - Wess Stafford



## CONFRONTING POVERTY

- The Holy Spirit is the one that moves in our hearts to help those in need, and our response is simple: Do Something.
- Here are some questions to help us know what our next steps are:
  - What does this mean to me as an individual?
  - What does this mean to my family and my children?
  - What does this mean to the people I am called to lead?
- Compassion International helps bring the abstract concept of poverty or missions into our homes, on our refrigerators, and our children's prayers.
  - This not only helps those in need but it also helps us disciple our own family.
- We typically only see the symptoms of poverty: lack of resources, unemployment, etc. but the heart of poverty is people thinking they don't really matter.
- The greatest weapon against poverty is the Gospel because God says "You matter"!

"This is where poverty's back is broken, when a little child says, 'Maybe I matter'." - Wess Stafford

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

See the last two pages for Discussion Questions that will help you and your team get the most out of this episode!

## EPISODE RESOURCE

- [Book: "Just a Minute"](#)
- [Book: "Too Small to Ignore"](#)
- [Monthly Mentoring with Pastor Chris](#)
- [Develop Kingdom Builder / Legacy Teams](#)
- [Previous Episodes + Show Notes](#)
- [Free Church Resources](#)
- [Compassion International](#)
- [The StudioC](#)
- [The Wesleyan Investment Foundation](#)