



CASE STUDY: PLEASE COULD YOU....

This case study tells of an event that happened to a Global Interaction staff worker serving among people who are quite poor.

The event: A friend you've been getting to know treats you as someone who is in close relationship with them. You feel excited about this, because it seems you are finally fitting into the culture more. Your friend invites you to share with their family in the biggest religious celebration of the year. Not long afterwards, your friend comes and asks to borrow money.

How would you respond in this situation?

1. Give your friend the money requested as a gift.
2. Give your friend the money as a loan.
3. Give a smaller amount than requested.
4. Don't give your friend any money.
5. Other _____

Consider why lending or giving money on request might negatively or positively impact the relationship. In this circumstance where the Global Interaction worker is "rich" – comparatively speaking – and the friend is poor, can the relationship continue as a "friendship between equals" if there is a financial indebtedness? Does the Biblical principle of "giving to those you ask" throw any light on this discussion? Does giving money empower people? Are there any ways of helping financially impoverished people without creating dependency? Which is more destructive – poverty or attitudes of dependency (expecting others to provide for you rather than putting in creative effort to change your circumstances)?

(After discussion, look at the next sheet.)





GLOBAL | INTERACTION

PLEASE COULD YOU: CONTINUED

Real life response: We explained to our friend that we could either offer financial help or spiritual help, but that helping them financially could affect our relationship with them. The friend chose financial help and asked for the loan. We chose to give it as a gift to prevent further damage to the relationship if repayment never came. We found that further interactions were strained, tainted by distrust of their motivations and embarrassment on the part of the husband.

What we could have done in hindsight: We could have found an appropriate story to tell from the Bible.

