



TO GIVE

## WAKE UP! GET YOUR HEAD ROUND THIS...

North Korea is a place of immense need, where natural disasters, corrupt officials and poorly thought through state planning have led to around 16 million people being malnourished or suffering from food shortages.

This is a land where citizens are officially ranked into three classes and where only those in the right class get properly fed.

But despite the obvious need, those who have little commit to sharing it with those who have nothing



## PRAY

Spend a few minutes focussing on God, asking his Spirit to be with you, guiding you, prompting you and preparing you for the next 30 minutes.



## READ: ACTS 4.32-37

"Everything they owned was held in common..."  
Acts 4v:32



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## THINK

**What's going on?** Acts is the story of what happened after Jesus has ascended to heaven. It's about what the disciples and early followers of Jesus did - it's essentially a story about the birth and early growth of the church. And in this passage we get a sneaky look at how the very earliest Christians acted and organised themselves. In the midst of tensions and persecution from Jewish and Roman communities they put massive value on generosity and equality. They were kind, looking out for all members of the church no matter whether someone was rich, poor, socially significant or not.

- Why do you think they acted like this? How do you think they were viewed by the rest of the people around them?
- Is this just something for 'that time' or are we still supposed to act on the same principles? If so, how?
- The passage says that 'God's grace was powerfully at work in them'. What do you think that means? What does God's grace practically look like? Can you think of times when God's grace has been powerfully at work in your life?
- The early Christians shared everything, which means they didn't really think of their possessions as their own. Imagine that you had to pack a suitcase and leave home in a hurry. What essentials would you take with you? Clothes, a phone, a Bible? Now, think about what you leave behind - would you leave the PS3, a second pair of shoes or even the pillow on your bed? The things you thought about leaving, is it stuff that you really need?
- It's good to challenge ourselves about our attitude to what we own - money and possessions can so easily become an idol that get in the way of our dependence on God. Read Lk 12v22-32 and ask God to highlight things in your life that you would struggle to give up if he asked you. Pray that you'd depend more and more on God, rather than things.
- Any thoughts and challenges you want to share? Tweet us @opendoorsyouth or make a comment on [facebook.com/opendoorsyouth](https://www.facebook.com/opendoorsyouth). We'd love to hear your thoughts.

## HOLY RICE

One Chinese worker who has been involved in missions among North Koreans says he has been deeply challenged by North Korean believers. *"I work mainly with those who have a Christian heritage. If you ask me to choose one word to describe them, I would pick 'faithful'. Not all of them have God's Word, but thanks to their leaders, they really know God's Word and do God's Word."*

*"At the height of the famine a leader felt called to reintroduce the concept of 'holy rice', a practice whereby rice is set apart for use in God's kingdom. Ever since, these Christians don't consume all the food they receive from us. They save some to give to people who are even worse off than them. This gives them an opportunity to build trust and later share the gospel with these people."*



## IMAGINE

Imagine that your church is like the church in Acts. How would you share goods between one another? What would a 'day in the life' of your church look like if this happened?

What does this tell you about normal life in North Korea? What would it be like to live there?



## EAT

In North Korea, famine has been so severe that many people end up eating grass. One lunch this week why not try making some watery nettle soup to get a little taste of what many North Koreans depend on for nourishment.

**Ingredients:** foraged nettles, water/veg stock and a potato or onion if you're lucky.

**Method:** Fry up the potato and/or onion 'til soft. Add the water/stock. Simmer. Then stir in the nettles and cook for 1-2 minutes until they are wilted and cooked.



## PRAY

- Lee didn't know his parents were Christians. He only knew that they were different as they helped the poor, the sick and the hungry. Pray that North Koreans may continue to demonstrate the reality of the kingdom of God through their actions, and that one day they will be free to be known as 'Christian parents'.
- Pray for the tens of thousands of orphans living on the streets because their parents have died, been arrested or fled the country. Ask God to give his wisdom and compassion to people who encounter these children. Pray for those in North Korea who share their food, clothes and money with them.
- *"My mother invited them into our home for secret services. They were dressed in rags and had hardly anything to eat. Sometimes my mother went to China and she came back with clothes, food and medicines and she gave those away to the other Christians."*  
**North Korean Christian**  
Praise God for the North Korean Christians who risk such a lot to look after their poorer fellow believers.
- Praise God that in 2013, God enabled Open Doors to do more than in any previous year. We distributed Christian materials, books and training materials inside North Korea. Many were also given food, medicines, clothing and other relief goods. Pray that Open Doors will be able to continue to help the Church survive physically and spiritually.
- Ask God to reveal how you can share what you have with your friends, family and community.



## ACT

Over the next week, do one or both of the following things to help you to wake up to the reality of life for Christians in North Korea.

- Follow the 'holy rice' principle. Work out the cost of your food budget this week. Put 10 per cent aside for those who are worse off than you. Or give food to a food bank.
- Fast for a day. Imagine what your life would be like if you had to do this every day. Pray for those in North Korea without enough to eat.