



NEW PERSPECTIVE, NEW POSSIBILITIES: The Empowered Worldview curriculum

“The THRIVE model is a comprehensive approach that appropriately combines mutually reinforcing interventions to achieve real change at the household and individual level. Empowered Worldview is the foundation for this model and is a main driver of the promising THRIVE results so far. The explicit shift promoted by Empowered Worldview from traditional community mobilization to individual mindset change is a very important contribution to the field of economic development.”

*—Bruce Ravesloot, Vice President,
Technical Assistance to Non-Governmental
Organizations (TANGO) International*

Why is worldview so important?

When we begin working in a community, a common challenge is the predominant worldview—how people see and interpret their world. In some places, generations of poverty and oppression have caused people to believe they can’t change their situation. In others, prosperity may exist alongside a feeling that God has no active presence in the world.

A biblically based worldview, in contrast, sees people’s value and potential through God’s Word. It liberates people to be who God created them to be. It changes not only how they interpret the world, but also how they perceive their own abilities to influence their circumstances. It invites them to see other people the same way—inspiring them to take action to help others as well as themselves. And it affirms that development comes from people taking ownership instead of relying on external intervention. We call this an *empowered worldview*: an understanding and acknowledgment that we are created in the image of God and are invited to participate in what God is doing in the world, using our God-given gifts and resources for the good of others.

THE EMPOWERED WORLDVIEW CURRICULUM



We work alongside community and faith leaders to create workshops based on five themed modules: identity, vision, compassion, relationships, and faith. Participants reflect on Scripture, discuss how to apply lessons to their own lives and communities, build relationships with one another, and reshape how they see the world.

This structure paves the way for maximum impact. It equips families to increase their incomes, which in turn improves children's access to good nutrition, education, healthcare, and other life-changing resources. And it strengthens community bonds even across cultural, religious, and social differences—allowing families and community members to break the cycle of poverty together.



1 IDENTITY

This module considers what it means to be made in the image of God. People replace fearful and superstitious beliefs with the knowledge that God loves them, has given them His creativity, and grants them the capacity to transform their lives, families, and communities. They learn how to be productive, take advantage of opportunities, create opportunities for others, and respect and value all people as image-bearers of God—even those with different values and behaviors.

2 VISION

This module explores God's vision for individuals, families, and communities to live in harmony. Participants are encouraged to benefit from the fruits of their labors and be free of greed, exploitation, and oppression while also advocating for policies that uphold community members' rights. Together, they learn to engage the church in improving livelihoods and well-being alongside them.

3 COMPASSION

This module helps people develop a heart for the most vulnerable in their communities by studying Jesus' perfect example of compassion. They learn practical ways to show it, especially to women and children. These include individual acts of kindness and supporting small projects that benefit others—with the goal of adopting compassion as a way of life.

4 RELATIONSHIPS

This module teaches the importance of building relationships with others, regardless of differences in values and backgrounds. Crucially, participants learn how to develop and maintain loving family relationships. They also begin building trust and community, and are encouraged to spend time with people different from themselves.

5 FAITH



This module challenges people to be more courageous and take risks in building their community. They're encouraged to trust God and work together with others to improve the lives of individuals and families, no matter how many or few resources they have available. After completing this module, participants recognize the value of stepping out of their comfort zone when working with their community.



Inspiring change alongside leading voices

Involving key leaders is an essential part of encouraging individuals to adopt an empowered worldview. To reach people most effectively, we work closely with:

- » Faith leaders (pastors, imams, priests, and others)
- » Farm association leaders
- » Savings groups
- » Community leaders (including leaders of women's groups and youth groups)



Laying the groundwork for other World Vision initiatives

When people see themselves and others the way God sees them, it sparks a desire to improve their lives and community. Other World Vision programs leverage the Empowered Worldview curriculum, expanding the impact:

- » **THRIVE (Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments)** equips vulnerable families with practical farming skills and tools to improve their finances by helping them recognize their own agency and potential.
- » **Channels of Hope** partners with faith leaders to address misconceptions about issues like child protection, mother and child health, gender, and HIV and AIDS—encouraging compassion and action.
- » **Celebrating Families** and **Positive Parenting** equip parents, teachers, and other caregivers to create safe and loving environments for children so they can see themselves as God sees them and understand their role in caring for others and God's creation.



Casting out fear

Merina was taught not to use her money for things like a brick house or electricity. Her mother said doing so would allow others to bewitch her. But through the Empowered Worldview curriculum, Merina learned not to fear such things—and now she's building a better life for her family. "I had never read the Bible before, but I was convinced," she says, "not because the facilitator was saying it, but because we could read for ourselves the written Word of God."



Catalyzing transformation

Harold, a World Vision District Program Manager, remembers when change was slow in coming to the communities where he worked. He'd been wondering why it was so hard to make headway. "It is only after we came in with Empowered Worldview that things really started to change," he says. "There are a number of families who have experienced more change in the last nine months than they have in the last five or 10 years that we have worked with them."

Embracing identity

Pastor Tobias thought that his only option for food was relying on church members' gifts—a challenging prospect considering the poverty in his region. But the Empowered Worldview curriculum freed him to use his talents to provide for his family. He says, "I came to realize that, first and foremost, I am a child of God, created in His image for good. And second, that I am here to be a steward and to be productive. So I came to know who I am."

Opening the door to change

Together, we can equip people to break the cycles of disempowerment and poverty.

Help transform lives by supporting the Empowered Worldview curriculum. [For more information, contact your World Vision representative.](#)



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. We serve all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. PHL13416_1219 © 2019 World Vision, Inc.