

# LifeGroups Study Guide

**Lesson Aim:** To learn more about God's heart for the world and specifically the Kingdom of Swaziland.

**Prayer:** Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your personal study time and/or discussion.

**Icebreaker:** Where is the farthest place you have traveled to outside of the Fresno area? (Briefly) What are one or two things that were different at the place you visited than the way things are here in Fresno?

1. **READ 2 Corinthians 4:7-18.** What were some of the "light and momentary troubles" that the Apostle Paul and other early church members were dealing with?
2. How did they stay motivated to live for Christ in spite of these?
3. What are some of the troubles that we face today? Describe these in both general and personal terms.
4. How do these troubles tend to keep our attention on things that are seen and temporary?
5. What are some practical ways we can apply Paul's words to focus on the unseen and eternal for our lives today?
6. How could The Bridge's focus on supporting the work of Children's Hope Chest (CHC) in Swaziland help us in this?
7. Thinking back over Pastor Scott's teaching on Sunday, what are some of the challenges people living in Swaziland have to deal with?
8. What is your understanding about the practical ways The Bridge will partner with CHC this month? What questions do you have?
9. **READ Isaiah 61:1-4.** List up to ten actions to be taken by a person on whom the Spirit of the Lord rests.

Beside each of these actions, list an example of what living it out could look like in your community, church, family, workplace or campus.

**Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.**



# Swaziland: From a Snapshot of Despair to the Big Picture of Hope

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## WHAT?

- ❶ Location – Southern Africa
- ❷ Population – approx. 1.2 million people
- ❸ Economic Reality – extremely poor; subsistence farming;
- ❹ Spiritual Reality – nominally a “Christian nation,”
- ❺ Challenge #1 – hunger
- ❻ Challenge #2 – AIDS epidemic
- ❼ Challenge #3 – Orphans
- ❽ Challenge #4 – Hopelessness

## HOW?

- ▶ Impossible... the odds are so badly stacked against us! How could we possibly help?
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 4:7-18
- ▶ The Bridge is partnering with Children’s Hope Chest to...
  - ❶ Build up a CarePoint at Mebatenene in Southeastern Swaziland (\$ 38,250)
  - ❷ Fund the Swazi Gospel Academy (\$ 50,000)
  - ❸ Send 15 students to the Leadership Experience (\$ 11,750)Side Project – Purchase Playground Equipment (\$ 15,500)

## WHY?

- ▶ God... the love of Christ compels us
- ▶ Matthew 6:9-10; 10:8; 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

PRINCIPLE #1: Do for some what you wish you could do for everyone.

PRINCIPLE #2: Jesus commands us to get involved with the nations.