

Week 1: Borah La-or Bit. Facilitator Guide

The Hole in the Soul

Facilitator Preparation: Print out of the Cambodian Flag. Print out of I Corinthians passage, Comparison Chart and discussion questions found in Appendix.

Objectives:

- Men can identify a major symptomatic problem for Cambodian society.
- Men can describe explain these symptoms to others
- Men can compare traits of various types of Christian leaders and see the difference
- Men conclude that to become a real man takes serious change.

- I. WELCOME and Intro:** Facilitator introduces himself and then has everyone in room select an object in their pocket, bag, or the room to use in order to express who they are. They say their name, and how the object they chose expresses a part of who God created them to be.

Facilitator Note: We want to avoid mentioning work because too many man associated their identity with what the do a career and not the other roles, passions, gifts, talents God has given them.

Facilitator Lesson background info in Appendix 2: Read before going over lesson.

***Facilitator mentions our rules:**

1. When someone is telling their story, do not interrupt and ask questions or make comments.
2. When it is your turn to speak, tell your story and do use your opportunity to correct someone else.
3. Limit your own sharing so others can have a turn, too.
4. Whatever you hear, here, stays here and does not leave this room.

Facilitator must intervene at times when one person is off track, or talking too much. This hard but it must be done gently.

- II. BRIDGE:** Activity Demonstrating the goals or Boroh Laor Bit.

Facilitator Note and Learning Task 1: Print a colored Cambodian Flag before the class with a big hole in the middle. Hand it out to participants to look at. Facilitator asks what this picture might have to do with Borah Laor bit. Participants give answers and discuss. If they do not present an answer relates to the problem men cause for families and society, facilitator explains that Cambodia has a hole in its soul, and that is that it lacks good men who will be the soul/foundation of the Cambodian society.

III. BODY: Brief Introduction to the Lesson: 1 Cor 4:8-17

We will read scripture verses from 1 Corinthians and will see some helpful things in Chapter 4. We will find some of same problems that the Corinthian church faced that we as the Cambodian church face today as well. We will also find some goals for “Boroh Laor Bit” in the scripture. Paul is writing to the Corinthian church that in the beginning was basically humble. But over time, they became focused on gaining knowledge and status. Some of the leaders became very proud of their selves and used their knowledge to exalt themselves in church. They all wanted leadership positions in the church, and to be up in front of people.

Learning Task 3: Scripture Study of 1 Cor 4:8-17

Facilitator: See **Appendix 3** for Scripture Print-Out. Hand out scripture copies to participants.

Everyone will read the text themselves and while reading, **circle** the characteristics of the Corinthians, and **underline** the characteristics of Paul and the Apostles.

Learning Task 3A: In pairs, work together and read the text again. Put the **actions** and **characteristics** of the Corinthians on the left side, and characteristics of Paul and the Apostles on the right side.

Example Chart (See Appendix 1 for full chart)

Characteristics/actions of the Corinthians	Characteristics/actions of Paul and the Apostles
Proud, strong, honored	Lowly in worldly status
Seeking Status	Laughed at and looked down by everyone
Controlling	Blessing others
Competitive	Humble
Arrogant	Hardworking
Selfish	Enduring
Materialistic	Persecuting

LEARNING TASK 3B: Small Group: Discuss questions provided in Appendix 4

Facilitator Notes: Question 4- We hope to see words like: risk, sacrifice, perseverance, going through hardship, risking life, living with poor.

Small Groups Report their findings to Big Group:

Facilitator facilitates discussion but tries to focus on the last question and the solution that Paul gives: Imitate his embracing of hardship, risk, sacrifice, poverty, rejection, etc. That is what gave him “Father” type leadership.

IV. BEYOND: Select Someone to Share Life Story Next week- Should be older participant selected to tell their story for twenty minutes.

V. Close in Prayer

Appendix 2

Facilitator Background Info: The point is that we are overwhelmed with new information through globalization, technology and the internet. This is the age of information, and each day we receive yet another big information dump everywhere we go. We are in information overload and taking in more and more information every day. We are told that having more information, concepts and facts equals knowledge, and everyone is running after knowledge. We see church leaders running from seminar to seminar learning more and more. But they use knowledge to control and impress, and to gain status. It does not help but hurts. The church and the community don't need *more* leaders who are up front and in charge, and know more than the rest of us. **We the church, and the society, need fathers**- mature and stable men, full of wisdom, who can pass on their wisdom and mature presence to their children, families, and the young men in their churches not by telling, but by modeling. Not by learning about something, but living through hardship for the sake of the gospel. The church and society needs men who know when to stop climbing up the ladders, and climb down, men who been through difficult times and learned what they need to learn to become wise. One of the goals of BLP is begin the journey is to help both young and old become that type of person, that **Father**, to fill the hole in the soul of Cambodia.

Appendix 3: Scripture Study

1 Cor 4:8-17

8 Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings — and that without us! How I wish that you really had become kings so that we might be kings with you! **9** For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. **10** We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! **11** To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. **12** We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; **13** when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.

14 I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. **15** **Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers,** for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. **16** **Therefore I urge you to imitate me.**

Appendix 4: LEARNING TASK 3B: Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. From your comparison chart exercise, how did the pursuit and pride of knowledge transform the character of the leaders of the Corinthian church?
2. Discuss the desire and effort to gain knowledge in the Cambodian society today. Think about the new schools, access to internet, and all the technology available to gain more knowledge. How has the pursuit of knowledge transformed Cambodia?
3. How has the pursuit for knowledge transformed the Cambodian church and church leadership?
4. Look at your chart again and notice the characteristics of the Apostles. Write down the things that made Paul and the Apostles great men of God (as you see in the Bible verses provided)?
5. Read verses 14, 15, and 16 again. What word did Paul use to describe the kind of leader he was, the only kind of leader the Corinthians needed? **Facilitator Answer-A Father**
6. How does this passage reflect the truth of the situation in the church in Cambodia today? What does it mean you have many guardians and not many fathers? **(Facilitator Answer: Many want to become leaders through knowledge, but not through any hardship).**
7. If the Cambodian church and the Corinthian church share the same problem in relation to the pursuit of knowledge, what solution does Paul offer? **Facilitator Answer: Imitate me in embracing sacrifice and hardship for the gospel. That is the only way to become a Father/leader**