**Living on a dollar a day-Guatemala**

**Learning Goals**

* Small changes can have a huge impact in the lives of the extreme poor. Access to a microfinance loan is a great example of this. However, there is no one answer to poverty. We need many small partial solutions to make real change.
* Experiential learning is where you put yourself in someone else’s shoes to better understand what their life is like rather than read or be told about it. This can be a great way to better understand an issue you are interested in and learn how to help.
* Each person can make a difference in the world and it doesn’t have to be something big like travelling to Guatemala. You can find a way to use something you are passionate about or a special skill you have to make a difference in your community or in the world right now.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What surprised you about the people living in extreme poverty?
2. What do the lives of Rosa, Anthony and Chino make you think about your own life?
3. What do you think were three of the hardest things for Zach, Chris, Sean and Ryan that could have kept them from going to Guatemala?
4. What do you think Zach, Chris, Sean and Ryan gained by living on $1 a day themselves in this community, instead of just reading about it?
5. Have you travelled before and felt a sense of reverse culture shock when coming home?
6. What is something in your life that you will no longer take for granted after watching this film?
7. After watching this film, why do you think that Chino, Rosa, and Anthony are still living in extreme poverty? What do you think are some of the things holding them back?
8. What other questions do you now have about poverty, microfinance, or the lives of people around the world?
9. What surprised you about the generosity of the people in the town?
10. What things do the people in Guatemala struggle with that you see people in the United States or in your own community struggling with as well?
11. What could you do to better understand some of these issues? And, how could you creatively share what you are learning with your classmates and with your community?
12. Using your monthly budget, compare your spending and the struggles of living on 1 dollar a day. Do you spend more than a dollar, and how do you spend it?

**Learning Goal-**Think critically about the many approaches to poverty alleviation and the importance of sustainable, long-term development.

**Notice three examples of poverty alleviation strategies from the film.**

* Education scholarships to help kids like Chino go to school
* Source of clean water to prevent issues like Chris’ sickness
* Microfinance loans like the one that helped Rosa start her weaving business

We also note that there are many other poverty alleviation strategies, ranging from medical services, the availability of technology, immigration policies, food aid and industrialization.

**Essay: In a type-written 2-page essay answer the following prompt:**

**Who do you think is to blame for the condition of the poor? Please select one from the following: the poor, their government, their economic system, multinational corporations, our government, or you may come up with your own. Now that you have the source of the problem, in what ways would you solve this problem? (If you had one hundred million dollars to put towards solving poverty, what would you spend it on? It can include strategies that have already been tried or any new ideas you think would change the world. Be creative! How would you make the most impact for the extreme poor?)**