

# If You Have the Time, I have the Money

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**Building Community for Mission  
Cross Cultural Workshop  
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# Introduction

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Money practices in:

China

Poland

Africa

Judaism

# In Your Groups

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Discuss the worksheet: “Proverbs on Money”

# In a Collectivistic Culture

4

Example: Native Americans and Europeans  
in early U.S. history

# In a Collectivistic Culture

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Collectivistic cultures view financial resources as “ours” or “mine”—but certainly not yours.

# In a Collectivistic Culture

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Collectivistic cultures require that resources be used immediately; if not used immediately, they are assumed to be “available.”

# In a Collectivistic Culture

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Collectivistic cultures celebrate all special events, irrespective of the cost and irrespective of the long-term financial effect.

# In a Collectivistic Culture

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Collectivistic cultures cannot ask financial questions or demand accountability.



# In Your Groups

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Discuss the worksheet: African values contrasted with Western values

# In Your Groups

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## **Discuss the following:**

In an individualistic culture, “accountability” means careful accounting and the expectation that one will be asked to report to a board or executive committee about the handling of financial resources.

“Transparency” is often used as a synonym for avoiding lying or cover up.

# In Your Groups

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Complete the following statements with a sentence that clarifies the meaning of these words in your culture, thinking particularly about the handling of financial resources:

# In Your Groups

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“Being *accountable* means that a leader.....”

“Processes through which a leader is held *accountable* are.....”

“Leaders who demonstrate *accountability* will.....”

“*Transparency* requires members of committees to.....”

“When a mistake is made or things go wrong, *transparency* means.....”

# Bribery and Ethics

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## **Bribery is:**

“A payment made with the intention to corrupt. More specifically, the payment is made with the intention of causing a person to be dishonest or disloyal or to betray a trust in the performance of official duties.”

J.R. Boatright - *Ethics and the Conduct of Business*

# Bribery and Ethics

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*Bribery* is when an organization or an individual initiates the payments.

*Extortion* occurs when an official demands a payment to complete an action.

Bribery and extortion are *illegal* in all countries engaged in international financial activities.

# Bribery and Ethics

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## **Scripture states:**

God cannot be bribed (Deut. 10:17)

We are instructed not to offer or accept bribes  
(Ex. 23:8; Deut. 16:18-20)

# Bribery and Ethics

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## **Deuteronomy 16:19:**

“Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent. Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you.”



# Bribery and Ethics

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**What about “lubricating” payments?**

It depends.....

# Bribery and Ethics

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1. Respect for life.
2. Basic trust in order to have transfer of goods, services, and money, and for orders to be accepted and filled.
3. Honor of contracts and agreements made.

# Bribery and Ethics

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The matter of gift-giving:

Examples: Japan

Cultures who use a “middle-man”

1 Samuel 9

2 Kings 5

# In Your Groups

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A missionary from an individualistic culture is serving the church in an Asian culture. When riding his motorcycle he mistakenly went over the speed limit as he approached an outdoor market. The policeman watching traffic stopped him. The missionary apologized for speeding. The policeman stated that if he would give him the equivalent of US\$1.00 in the local currency, he would not write up the ticket.

# In Your Groups

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If the missionary receives the ticket, it will probably cost about US\$10 and he will be required to go to the police station, fill out considerable paperwork, and perhaps be asked to go to court.

Should the missionary pay the \$1.00 to the policeman?

# In Your Groups

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You are a new ADRA director in an extremely poverty-stricken country. You have discovered that money, in large and small amounts, is missing from virtually every ADRA project in the country. Since it seems that everyone in the organization is related to everyone else, it is difficult to pinpoint the problem or to stop the losses. Furthermore, to get anything done in this country—from obtaining import permits to finding trucks to transport relief supplies—you are expected to give an under-the-table “gratuity.”

# In Your Groups

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Next month you face your first audit by a major donor.

What values are in conflict in this situation?  
As the ADRA director, what should you do?

# Suggestions

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When living in a culture where lubricating payments are expected:

1. Never pay a bribe (keeping in mind the definition of a bribe in the local culture).
2. Never let a religious organization official coerce you into performing an illegal act in order to save “the church” some money.



# Suggestions

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3. Be careful not to flaunt your wealth.
4. Remember that ethical issues are not generally related to everyday transactions, but occur when one is in a situation where there are pre-expectations or pressures for some “greater good.”

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