

**Villages in Partnership** serves the people of Malawi, one of the most impoverished countries on Earth. The problems Malawi faces are complex and interconnected. Of the country's 18.5 million people, there are 1 million orphans. Almost 50% of the population is moderately or severely underweight, and 10% of the adult population is living with HIV/AIDS. Where extreme poverty exists, hopelessness and despair define daily life.

VIP has developed an enduring partnership with the people of Sakata, Malawi. After meeting with villagers to understand their needs, VIP then mobilizes Western support to provide resources and expertise. But rather than offering a handout, VIP collaborates with the village to build solutions. Once a project is completed, the village takes ownership, uplifting the entire community.

Read:

Mark 12:28-31

Watch:

https://vimeo.com/361890317

## Reflect and Viscuss:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." If you were to make these two commandments your main priorities each day, how would your lifestyle be different?

Villages in Partnership addresses six critical needs of human development: food, water, education, medical care, infrastructure and economic opportunity. How would an approach that only "solves" one of those issues differ in its results from a more holistic approach like VIP's?

## Transforming Communities

The Bible reveals God's passion not only for individuals, but for the flourishing of whole neighborhoods and cities.

For this reason, Christ Church invests in Christian ministries that advance integrated community development strategies, attending holistically to a variety of needs, including clothing, shelter and housing; nutrition and healthcare; vocational assistance and micro-finance; and spiritual enrichment.

## Pray:

- •For the safety and success of VIP's ministry and people.
- •That the cycle of poverty would be broken in Malawi and the people would continue to thrive.
- That the Gospel would take root in Malawi and spread to all its people
  and those throughout Africa.

