**Leader:** We often imagine what it will take to build healthier communities in both the U.S. and abroad. But let us engage our imagination in the way that Jesus often challenged his disciples. A simple parable opens us up to both the promise and peril of the good work of international health projects.

Now, let us watch the video, “A Modern Day Parable” …

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**Leader:** Parables are always imperfect lessons, yet they still inform who we are and what we do on many levels. For example, a key lesson of the original parable of the sowing is God's generosity in scattering seed even where it is unlikely to grow. While generosity would be a great lesson for international health work, this modern parable has a different focus. In reflecting on it you are encouraged to not just analyze it intellectually, but to give time to the emotional and spiritual insights that emerge from its reading.

**Questions for Reflection:**

* What are your initial reactions to this parable? Intellectually? Emotionally? Spiritually?
* Can you see yourself in this parable? With whom do you identify?
* Have you experienced or heard of similar struggles as these volunteers? What goes unseen after they leave?
* Where have you seen true progress or reward in international health work? What does that look like?
* Are you and your colleagues open to the possibility that this work may require change from what you have done in the past? What are the barriers to this change?

**All:** God of all people, open our minds and our hearts so that we might see how You are already at work in every corner of our world. Keep us always rooted in humility as we consider our role in building Your kingdom. And continue to stir in us joy and hope, the true and abundant fruit of our labors. Amen.

“A Modern Day Parable” is included in the CHA resource, Guiding Principles for International Health Activities. It is also offered as an animated video. Both the booklet and the video are available at [www.chausa.org/international](http://www.chausa.org/international).