

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTORY MATERIALS

A Note From the Author.....	2
A Note From Partners for Just Trade.....	3
Suggestions for Facilitators.....	4
What is Fair Trade?.....	6
Your Invitation and Introduction to a New Way of Being and Buying.....	7

SESSIONS

Fair Price for Products.....	10
Empowerment and Capacity Building for the Producers.....	12
Transparency and Accountability.....	16
Empowerment for Women and Justice for Children.....	20
Creating Opportunities; Investing in People and Communities.....	24
Environmental Sustainability.....	29

REFERENCES

An Invitation Toward a New Way of Being and Buying: The Next Steps....	33
Reference Section.....	34
Determining a Fair Wage.....	34
Identifying and Finding Fair Trade.....	36
Fair Trade Educational Resources.....	37
Online Resources.....	38
Take Action.....	39



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A NOTE FROM THE AUTHORS

Dear Friends,

From 2002-2004, I was fortunate to journey to Peru several times to work with Ruth and Hunter Farrell and the Joining Hands Peru Network, of the Presbyterian Church (USA). I was Associate Pastor for Global Ministries at the Broad Street Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio, and was accompanied by youth and adults on these life-changing trips. Broad Street continues to work with the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery in the St. Louis area in the three areas of environmental justice, human rights, and economic

development.

Currently I serve on the board of Partners for Just Trade (PJT), a Presbyterian initiative grown from the Joining Hands Network. Ruth Farrell along with Peruvian staff has been instrumental in encouraging more than 200 artisans to form cooperatives and come together under the umbrella known as Bridge of Hope (BOH). PJT is a non-profit organization which markets these artisans' products and seeks to educate everyone about Fair Trade and economic justice. I extend my thanks to Carrie Hawthorne, PJT's director, for her encouragement and design abilities, and to Beckey Stamm, our editor.

This Bible Study combines: a) the definitions of Fair Trade given by the Fair Trade Federation (www.fairtradefederation.org) and the International Federation of Alternative Trade (www.ifat.org), b) scriptural foundations, and c) personal stories to help us understand what Fair Trade is and why we should commit to it, even with all its challenges. Ruth Farrell and I have enjoyed collaborating, and we hope you find this Bible Study to be uplifting and educational.

Reverend Judy Hoffhine

A NOTE FROM PARTNERS FOR JUST TRADE

Dear Reader,

Partners for Just Trade (PJT) decided that developing a Bible Study would be instrumental in helping people learn that Fair Trade is neither a new nor a radical idea. Whether or not we realize it, the purchases we make every day have an impact on both humans and the environment.

We understand that it is hard to change one's own habits. We feel this Biblical foundation of Fair Trade will help give you the motivation to begin the difficult tasks of exploring how consumption practices are felt across the world, and how to use your purchasing power to positively affect social and economic justice. Becoming a knowledgeable shopper is a first step toward aligning your purchases with your values. We trust this Bible Study will help you learn about Fair Trade and reflect on how to become a responsible consumer. Enjoy the study!

Carrie Hawthorne
Executive Director

Contact PJT at PJT@partnersforjusttrade.org, or call (314) 773-7358 with comments and opinions or for more information.