



General questions

1. What problems can you identify in this story? Are solutions presented?
2. In what way might this story be relevant in your community?

Further exploration

1. Using this story as an example, how do health care equity issues impact economic outcomes?
2. Dr. Esperanza Cabral says the fewer children you have, the lower are the chances that your family is poor. Father Joel Jason argues that people are an economic asset who have been poorly served by their government. What do you think about these two points of view? In what ways are they at odds with one another or is there no contradiction between them?
3. The Philippines and neighboring Thailand once had similar poverty levels, but Thailand cut its population growth rate substantially in recent decades and is now better off economically. What major factors might have contributed to this outcome?



4. The historic influence of the Catholic church and its opposition to artificial birth control are often cited as a reason for the Philippines's high population growth rate. However, the world's largest Catholic nation, Brazil, has seen its population growth rate drop substantially over recent decades. What are three reasons for the sharp difference in outcome?