

Good News for the Powerless

Leader notes:

- This should be the **fourth study** in the “Life on Mission” series.
- As you will see, the Bible uses a lot of different language in these verses to describe the people God wants His followers to look after: the poor, the alien, the fatherless, the widow, the foreigner, the orphan, the needy, and more. In this study as we refer to the powerless, we are including all of these groups mentioned in Scripture.
- The majority of your time as a group will be spent reading Scripture together. Remind your group members in advance to bring their Bibles. This might be a study where you actually share the study goals with your group, so they understand the big picture for this extended time spent reading Scripture together.

Goals:

- To look at the way that God regularly points His people, in both the Old and New Testaments, to provide special care and concern for the powerless.
- To learn about God’s heart towards people who are poor or without power, the people in our society who have been left behind or forgotten or need help meeting their basic needs.
- To consider the ways we could personally live out this part of God’s mission in our everyday life.

Hook

- Share about someone who inspires you by the way that they care for powerless or vulnerable or oppressed people (could be a person in your life or someone you have heard of/read about).
- From things you’ve read, sermons you’ve heard, or other sources, what does your group know about life in the Ancient Near East for the poor, the foreigner, the widow, the orphan? What was life like for these groups of people living on the margins of their society?

Book

Assign multiple verses from the list below to each member of the group (helping those that need assistance navigate their Bibles to find their passages). Take 15 minutes or more to read as many of these Scriptures out loud to one another as possible.

Orphans, Widows, Foreigners	Poverty
Exodus 22:22 - 24;	Leviticus 19:9 - 10; 15; 25:35 - 36;
Leviticus 19:34;	Deut 15:4 - 11;
Deut 10:17 - 19; 14:28 - 29; 15:11; 16:11; 24:17 - 19; 27:19;	1 Samuel 2:8;
Proverbs 15:25; 23:10;	Proverbs 3:27 - 28; 14:21, 31; 17:5; 19:17; 21:13; 22: 2, 9, 16, 22 - 23; 28:27; 29:7; 31:8;
Psalms 10:14 - 18; 68:5; 82:3 - 4; 94:6; 146:5 - 9;	Psalms 9:9, 18; 12:5; 34:5 - 6, 10; 72:3 - 4, 12 - 14; 82:3 - 4; 113:5 - 8; 140:12;

Job 29:12 - 17; 31:16 - 23;	Isaiah 1:17; 10:1 - 3; 25:4; 41:17; 58:6 - 10; 61:1
Isaiah 10:1 - 2;	
Jeremiah 7:5 - 7; 22:3; 49:11;	Luke 1:46 - 56; 6:20 - 21; 14:12 - 14;
Ezekiel 47:22;	Galatians 2:10;
Malachi 3:5;	Romans 12:11 - 13;
Zechariah 7:9 - 10;	2 Cor 8:1 - 4;
Hosea 14:3	1 John 3:17 - 18
Matthew 25:31 - 46;	
Mark 12:40;	
Luke 7:11 - 17;	
Acts 6:1 - 7;	
1 Timothy 5:16;	
3 John 1:5	

Look

- After reading these Scriptures, what do you learn about God's heart for the poor and powerless? Write down these themes and ideas together in a specific list (on a white board or big piece of paper is ideal!).
- After reading these Scriptures, what do you learn about living faithfully towards these groups of people? Make a list together of the specific actions described in these verses that are done or called for on behalf of the powerless.
- What is the connection between your answers to questions 1 and 2? In other words, how do our actions flow from God's character?

Took

- Where is one place that your life currently intersects with the people God asks us to care for in these verses?
- What barriers do you face in joining God's mission in the world to care for the vulnerable and oppressed?
- What is one small change you could make that would help your life intersect with one of the groups of people mentioned in these verses?
- After reading through all of the Scriptures above, how is your heart moved towards action? How can you join God in His mission to care for the vulnerable and powerless in our community?

Pray