

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

RESPONDING TO POVERTY

INTRODUCTION

We all want to be generous, right? It's not likely you'd hear someone say, "I love keeping my wealth to myself". As a nation, South Africa displays the greatest wealth disparity on the planet. The poverty around us is not a result of shortage but is a result of wealth that is distributed unequally. Jesus tells us that 'the poor will always be among us' but when we delve into the scriptures, we see that our faith is not content to leave it that way. There are so many places and people in need in our country. While we give to our own family members, our church, the NGO calling for donations – the Bible calls us to new heights of generosity in the face of widespread inequality.

This discussion guide will help you have a chat about giving, poverty, conviction/motivation to give and discerning the Spirit when a need arises.

SESSION ONE

RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THIS SESSION

- Bibles
- Copies of [Giving in the Bible](#) (or get people to read along on their phones)



OPEN UP THE BIBLE

Have someone read Matt 6: 1-4 and Matt 6:19-34
(Do not comment on these scriptures at this moment. Let them lead you into a time of pause and prayer as you begin this discussion about justice.)



OPEN IN PRAYER

Pray for open hearts and minds. Ask God to give new revelation and for the Spirit to work and make us more like Jesus in this specific area of giving

ACTIVITY ONE

ASK THE GROUP

- What are your initial thoughts about this topic on giving and responding to poverty in South Africa?
 - Do you personally give to strangers or those that approach you?
 - In your opinion, what is the biggest spiritual issue around this topic?
- [Note to leader: beware of how this conversation is intro'd and make sure the feedback is short, sensitive and not driven by emotion or long answers.]



READ TOGETHER

Read this article [Giving in the Bible](#)

Use this article and scriptures to lay a common understanding of the topic and why this is a justice issue in South Africa.

ASK

- What's something you found interesting in this article?
- Pick out a few scriptures mentioned in the article – read, reflect and discuss their context and potential application to today in SA.
- How do you think Jesus would respond to poverty or needs that arise if he were in South Africa today?

CLOSE IN PRAYER



Have the group pray for the thoughts and feelings that have been stirred as you've studied God's Word. Pray about the issue of poverty and need in our city and ask the Spirit to guide in response.

LAST IMPRESSION FEEDBACK

Take one last round of feedback from the group.

Ask them to give you a one or two sentence answer to one of these questions:

- What are you leaving tonight thinking/feeling?
- What does this mean for you/your family?
- What are your questions to research or next steps to take?

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY...

Listen to Podcast – [When Giving's Gone Well and When It Hasn't](#). Ponder what this means for your first impressions you had beginning the night. Does this discussion change your perspective or give you more to think about?

Read and jot notes about [A Strategy for Giving](#): What are your personal convictions or things you'd like to put in place for responding to poverty out of what God has given you?

SESSION TWO

INTRODUCTION

After one week of looking into the topic of Responding to Poverty, we hope this week will lead to practical ideas and ways we can respond both corporately and individually.

OPEN IN PRAYER



Lord, open our minds and our hearts to what you want us to hear from you.

ACTIVITY ONE

CHAT ABOUT THE HOMEWORK:

[Podcast](#)

[A Strategy for Giving](#)



DISCUSSION

- What did you think about the homework? What was new or interesting?
- What were your thoughts about discernment and making sure you're listening to the Spirit when you give? (from the podcast's discussion)
- Did you jot some notes about your personal strategy for giving? Can you share a bit?
- What would you like to know more about per the topic of giving, poverty or South Africa's issue with food insecurity or unemployment?

LAST IMPRESSION FEEDBACK



Ask them to give you a one or two sentence answer to one of these questions:

What are you leaving tonight thinking/feeling?

What does this mean for you/your family?

What are your questions to research or next steps to take?

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY...

If you still want to know more about this topic, dig deeper into the Common Good Resource page.

Suggested further reading/listening:

- [Giving by Referral](#)

- [Being a Steward of Mercy and Justice](#)