

SOJOURNERS on the issues

A discussion guide from the editors of Sojourners magazine

This series is designed to spark discussion and thought about how to live out God's call for justice in our world. This guide includes four sessions, each with Sojourners articles, questions for discussion, and ideas for further study. We recommend printing out the guide for each person and allowing everyone time to read before the group meets. The resources here are a starting point for a further journey—where will the Spirit lead your group?



IAN SHAW

Christians and Poverty

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SOJOURNERS

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To understand the “poor” in the Bible as only a reference to spiritual poverty is to miss an important part of the message. Now, as in biblical times, there is a correlation between financial poverty and spiritual poverty that cannot be dismissed simplistically. How do Christians address poverty in all its forms? Combining Bible study, social and economic analysis, and stories of real people, this collection of recent and past *Sojourners* articles is part of a series designed to spark discussion, thought, and action about how to live out God’s call for justice for all.

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Christians and Poverty

SESSION 1

The Bible and Poverty

- “Good News for the Poor,” by Samuel Escobar
- “‘You Shall Not Afflict...’” by Joyce Hollyday
- “Jesus’ New Economy of Grace,” by Ched Myers

SESSION 2

The Bible and Wealth

- “Is God Really on the Side of the Poor?” by Ronald J. Sider
- “Jesus Visits the Hamptons,” by Will Willimon
- “Tax the Rich,” by William H. Gates Sr. and Chuck Collins

SESSION 3

What Role Should Government Play?

- “Nothing Shall Make Them Afraid,” by Jim Wallis
- “Do We Care Enough,” by Ronald J. Sider
- “Time to End Poverty,” by Sen. John Edwards
- “Priorities for the Poor,” by Elizabeth Green

SESSION 4

Solidarity or Patronage?

- “An Active Faith,” by Yonce Shelton
- “Giving ‘Burger King Mom’ a Voice,” by Jim Wallis
- “Behold, the Treasure of the Church,” by Ched Myers

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