



# For They Shall Be Fed

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*A Study Guide and Workbook*

Compiled by **Dan Brewster**

Based on book by Ron Sider  
*'For They Shall Be Fed'*

D R A F T

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<sup>1</sup> Ron Sider. *For They Shall Be Fed*. Dallas: Word Publishing. 1997.

# Draft

Note that this is a draft version.

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# Introduction

Ron Sider's remarkable book *For They Shall be Fed* has been on my bookshelf for a very long time. I have no idea where I got it – possibly India, for the price on the cover shows 300 something – perhaps rupees? It wasn't until I was doing study for teaching a course on Transformational Development that the book came to my attention again.

As I picked up for study I realized anew what an outstanding book it is. In fact it is no more than a collection of Scriptures with some annotations and some study questions at the end. But what a collection of Scriptures! But there, in one place, is a large part of the wealth of Scriptures on God's concern for the poor, His demand of righteousness and for justice, and all the extraordinary passages on property and possessions and the economic relationships among the people of God. This is truly an astonishing and powerful collection. *For They Shall Be Fed* is not just a few passages with a man's interpretation or elaboration. Rather, it is the Word of God. Largely without comment. Unadorned. Compelling and dramatic. Surely one cannot study these passages without being convicted over and over again about God's heart for the poor, and the responsibility of His people to have the same heart.

This workbook contains 6 sections on the poor, righteousness and justice, and economic relationships between the people of God. From those passages, you will find key insights related to the theme. In some verse sets, some verses are highlighted. Focusing on those verses, write down your observations under the heading "**Key Insights.**" Then, review the key insights and list down the specific Principles, Themes or Reflections which you yourself (or your group) find about the poor under the heading "**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**"

Following some of the "**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**" there are also some questions which asks you to apply the biblical insights to your own personal life, culture and society. The response to some questions may be very obvious; others may require a bit more reflection and discovery on your part. There are no right or wrong answers to the reflection questions, but they will provide the basis for interesting and lively discussions about how children are viewed and treated in your own cultures/countries.

Readers familiar with my other Workbook I have done called Children and Childhood in the Bible will note that the two Workbooks are very similar. The Children and Childhood Workbook was based in part on the excellent book by Roy Zuck *Precious in His Sight*. That Workbook is also a collection of Scriptures and reflection questions on the wealth of biblical material on children, God's heart for children, their spiritual openness, and how God deployed them for His special tasks throughout Scripture. These two side by side workbooks then constitute not only a remarkable collection of passages on two of the most prominent, but often overlooked, themes in Scriptures. Together, they provide irrefutable evidence of what is important to almighty God, and a blueprint for action on behalf of the children and the poor and the needy.

Please note that this present Workbook is a draft version. And, since I have not sought the permission of Ron Sider nor his publisher to use *For They Shall Be Fed* in this way, it should not be reproduced except for small group or classroom use, and under no circumstances shall it be sold or republished.

## Section 1

# Salvation, Service, and the Kingdom

### 1. *A Good Creation Corrupted*

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- The Story of Creation, Genesis 1:1-31
- The Guilt of Humanity, Romans 1:18-25
- No One is Righteous, Romans 3:9-18

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

### 2. *God's Love for Sinners*

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- No God Like You, Micah 7:18-20
- Christ Died for Us, Romans 5:6-11
- God's Only Son, John 3:16-21

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to Romans 5:6-11 answer the following questions:

1. Why does God accept us?
2. What are the characteristics of those for whom Christ died?
3. What happens when someone enters into a relationship with God?

### **3. *Salvation by Grace***

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- God's Offer of Mercy, Isaiah 55:1
- Right with God, Romans 3:19-26, Romans 5:1-5
- Dead to Sin but Alive in Christ, **Romans 6:1-14**
- Jesus, the Bread of Life, John 6:25-59
- Saved by Grace, Ephesians 2:8-10

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to Romans 6:1-14 answer the following questions:

1. What does baptism symbolize?
2. What is the significance of the past and present tenses?
3. How do we walk in newness of life today in our relationships with the poor and hungry?

### **4. *Serving Others Out of Joyful Gratitude***

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- Love One Another, 1 John 3:11-18, Deuteronomy 24:17-18
- Because God Loved Us, **1 John 4:7-12**
- Broken for Us, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- Righteousness Through Faith, Philippians 3:3-11
- Giving as Christ Gave, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to 1 John 4:7-12, answer the following questions:

1. How do we come to understand the full meaning of love? How does the saying, "Actions speak louder than words" relate?
2. What does this text tell us about the Christian motivation for concern for the hungry and oppressed?
3. How can we celebrate God's love in our world?

## **5. *Salvation Completed: The Coming Kingdom for Which We Hope***

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- The Lord's Universal Reign of Peace, Micah 4:1-4
- When the Mortal Becomes Immortal, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8;20-26;51-58
- The Future Glory, Romans 8:18-25
- The New Heaven and the New Earth, Revelation 21:1-6

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

## Section 2

# God's Special Concern for the Poor

### 6. *Pivotal Points of Revelation History*

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- Rights of the Oppressed, Psalm 103:6-7
- Exodus
  - Punishing the Nation that Enslaves Them, Genesis 15:12-14
  - Exile in Egypt, Exodus 3:7-10, **Exodus 6:2-9**
  - God Saw the Suffering, Deuteronomy 26:1-11

#### Key Insights:

#### Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections

Referring to Exodus 6:2-9, answer the following questions:

1. What different reasons are given for God's decision to liberate the Israelite people?
2. Why do you think Black and Latin theologians have particularly emphasized the theme of liberation in the biblical teaching?
3. What people(s) would you say are oppressed or have unequal opportunities today?

- Destruction of Israel and Judah
  - If You do Not Obey, Jeremiah 22:1-5
  - Women Who Oppress the Poor, **Amos 4:1-3**
  - The Wages of Sin, Micah 2:1-10, Zephaniah 3:1
  - Because They Would Not Listen, Zechariah 7:8-14

#### Key Insights:

#### Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections

Referring to Amos 4:1-3, answer the following questions:

1. Why does the prophet denounce comfortable, well-to-do women? What future does he predict for them?
2. What contact do you think the women had with the poor? What, if any, was the relationship between their wealthy lifestyles and the poor?

- The Incarnation
  - Liberty to the Captives, Luke 4:16-21
  - God's Servant and the Weak, Matthew 12:15-21
  - Good News to the Poor, Luke 7:18-23

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

**Referring to Luke 4:16-21, answer the following questions:**

1. How does Jesus describe his mission at this public event at the beginning of his ministry?
2. In Luke 7:18-19, John the Baptist asks if Jesus is the awaited Messiah. How does Jesus' response (vv. 21-22) correspond with Luke 4:18-19?
3. How does Jesus' description of his mission correspond with the purposes of God discovered in Exodus 6:2-9 and Amos 4:1-3?

## ***7. God's Special Identification with the Least of These***

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- Special Sacrifices for the Poor, Proverbs 19:17 Leviticus 5:7-11, Leviticus 12:2-8, Leviticus 14:1-2; 10; 21-22

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

- Protecting the Poor, Psalm 12:5, Psalm 35:10, Psalm 68:5-6, Psalm 69:30-33, Psalm 109:30-31, Psalm 140:12
  - Creator and God of the Oppressed, Psalm 146:1-10
  - Insulting God, Proverbs 17:5
  - Hope for the Poor, Isaiah 11:1-4, Isaiah 61:1
  - The Poor with You, Mark 14:3-9
  - The Lost Sheep, Luke 15:1-7, Luke 1:52-53
  - Lifting the Poor from the Dust, 1 Samuel 2:2-8
  - Saving the Needy from Oppression, Job 5:11-16
  - Always Ready to Help, Psalm 10:2-14
  - God Hears the Orphan's Cry, Psalm 10:15-18
  - No One Like the Lord, Psalm 113:5-9, Proverbs 15:25, Proverbs 28:8, Isaiah 26:5-6
  - When That Day Comes, Isaiah 29:17-21
  - Mary's Song of Praise, Luke 1:46-55
  - Happy Are You, Luke 6:20-25

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

- Gaining Wealth by Oppression
  - The Charge Against Job, Job 22:5-9
  - Job's Defense, Job 23:1-2, Job 24:1-12, Job 24:19-22, Job 29:11-17
  - Things Go Well for the Wicked, Psalm 37:12-15, Psalm 73:2-20
  - Mocked by Oppressors, Psalm 123:3-4
  - Riches by Dishonesty, Proverbs 20:17, Proverbs 21:6, Proverbs 22:16
  - Houses Full of Plunder, Isaiah 3:1; 13-25
  - Gathering Wealth Like Eggs, Isaiah 10:13-19
  - That is Why They Are Fat, Jeremiah 5:7-9; 26-29
  - The Wealthy Cheat and Rob, Ezekiel 22:23-31, Hosea 12:7-9
  - Trampling the Poor, Amos 8:4-8
  - Your Rich People Exploit the Poor, Micah 6:9-15
  - Wealth by Violence, Habakkuk 2:5-12
  - Failure to Pay Wages, James 5:1-6

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

- Failure to Share
  - Jerusalem Admonished, Ezekiel 16:35-43
  - The Sin of Sodom, Ezekiel 16:44-50
  - The Rich Man and Lazarus, Luke 16:19-31

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

## **8. *God's People and the Poor***

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- Do Not Mistreat the Weak, Proverbs 14:21, Exodus 22:21-24, Exodus 23:9, Exodus 23:12, Leviticus 19:32-34, Deuteronomy 27:19, Psalm 41:1-2
- God's Will for the King, Psalm 72:1-4, Psalm 72:12-14
- God's Decision, Psalm 82:1-5
- An Act of Worship, **Proverbs 14:31**, Proverbs 21:13, Proverbs 22:9
- Guard the Rights of the Poor, Proverbs 22:22-23, Proverbs 23:10-11, Proverbs 29-7, Proverbs 31:8-9
- Injustice in the World, **Ecclesiastes 4:1**
- Do what is Right, Isaiah 32:6-8, Isaiah 33:14-16, Jeremiah 21:11-12
- Give to the Poor, Luke 11:37-41, Luke 12:32-34, Luke 14:12-14
- Zacchaeus Repents, Luke 19:1-10
- Helping the Poor, Acts 9:36-41
- Pure Religion, Ephesians 4:28, James 1:27

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to Proverbs 14:31 and Ecclesiastes 4:1, answer the following questions:

1. How does Ecclesiastes 4:1 help explain why so few people obey Proverbs 14:31?
2. In what ways are you part of the people with power, whether by choice or by accident?

## **9: A Biblical Warning to God's People**

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- Worship and Justice, Isaiah 1:10-17
- Fasting and Oppression, **Isaiah 58:1-10**
- The Final Judgment, **Matthew 25:31-46**
- Things That Demonstrate Repentance, Luke 3:7-11
- Punishment of Religious Leaders, Luke 20:45-47
- Whoever Does Not Love, James 2:14-17, 1 John 3:16-18, 1 John 4:7-8
- Children of the Father, Matthew 5:43-48

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to **Matthew 25:31-46**, respond to the following questions:

1. How do we relate this text to the biblical teaching that salvation is by grace alone (cf. James 2:18, Ephesians 2:8-9)?
2. Who are the people being judged in v. 32? Who are the poor in verses 40 and 45?

Referring to **Isaiah 58:1-10**, respond to the following questions:

1. How religious do these people seem to be?
2. Is it possible to be involved in oppression of the poor and still worship God? Is it necessary for every person who wants to worship God to be doing the things described in vv 6-7? How does God reward (or respond to) those who serve the poor and needy?
3. How do you think God views the religious activity and worship of people in rich nations today?

## **10. Is God Fair?**

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- Deuteronomy 10:17-19
- Justice and Fairness, Exodus 23:1-3, Job 34:18-19, Romans 1:14-15

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

## Section 3

# Economic Relationships Among the People of God

### 11. *The Year of Restoration*

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- The Year of Restoration, **Leviticus 25:8-17**
- The Problem of the Seventh Year, Leviticus 25:18-22
- Restoration of Property, **Leviticus 25:23-34**
- Loans to the Poor, Leviticus 25:35-38
- Release of Slaves, Leviticus 25:39-55

#### Key Insights:

#### Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections

Referring to Leviticus 25:8-17, and 23 – 28, respond to the following questions.

1. Every 50 years the land was to go back to original owners. Why did God give this command?
2. What does this passage teach about the right of the original owner to have the means to earn a living?
3. What does this passage teach about the extremes of wealth and poverty and the mechanisms to avoid that?

### 12. *The Sabbatical Year*

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- Exodus 23:10-11
- A Complete Rest for the Land, Leviticus 25:1-7
- Cancellation of Debts, Deuteronomy 15:1-11
- Release of Slaves, Deuteronomy 15:12-15
- A Broken Promise, Jeremiah 34:8-17
- Failure to Observe the Seventh Year, 2 Chronicles 36:17-21
- A New Commitment, Nehemiah 10:28-31

#### Key Insights:

#### Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections

### **13. Tithing**

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- You Will Be My God, Genesis 28:20-22, Leviticus 27:32, Deuteronomy 14:22-29, Deuteronomy 26:12-13
- Tithing, Justice, and Love, Luke 11:42

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

### **14. Laws for Harvesters**

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- Grain for the Poor, Leviticus 19:9-10, Leviticus 23:22, Deuteronomy 24: 19-22
- Ruth Works in the Field of Boaz, Ruth 2:1-9

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

### **15. On Charging Interest**

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- On Lending Money, Exodus 22:25-27, Deuteronomy 23:19-20
- Oppression of the Poor, Nehemiah 5:1-12
- Doing What is Right, Psalm 15:1-5

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

## **16. *Jesus' New Community***

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- Salt and Light, Matthew 5:13-16
- Teaching About Charity, Matthew 6:1-4
- Receiving a Hundred Times More, **Mark 10:28-31**;35-45
- Jesus' Helpers, Mark 15:40-41, Luke 8:1-3
- The Lord's Supper, Luke 22:14-20
- Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet, John 13:1-17
- Judas and the Money Bag, John 12:6, John 13:29
- Love One Another, John 13:34-35

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to Mark 10:28-31, respond to the following questions:

1. What might Jesus have meant by his promise that those who give up everything to follow him will receive a hundred times as much in this world?
2. How can the church present a new model of economic sharing that would be relevant to a divided rich/poor world today?

## **17. *The Earliest Christian Community***

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- Fellowship Among Believers, **Acts 2:41-47**
- Each According to His Need, **Acts 4:32-37**
- Neglected Widows, Acts 6:1-7
- Aiding Fellow Believers, Acts 11:27-30

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to Acts 2:41 – 47 and Acts 4:32-37, respond to the following questions.

1. What specific things did Christian fellowship include for this body of believers?
2. How extensive was their economic sharing?
3. In light of the example of the early church, what should Christian fellowship involve for us today?

## **18. St. Paul's Collection for the Poor Christians At Jerusalem**

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- 1 Corinthians 16:1-4
- Going to Jerusalem, Acts 21:10-14, Acts 24:10-14; 17, Romans 15:25-29
- Giving Generously, **2 Corinthians 8:1-15**
- Giving Gladly, 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
- Remembering the Needy, Galatians 2:7-10

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, respond to the following questions.

1. Why does Paul refer to the example of Jesus in v. 9?
2. What is the guideline for giving presented in vv. 13-15? How should this guideline be applied for Christians today?
3. By this offering from Gentile Christians to Jewish Christians, Paul meant to speak a word of reconciliation. How might similar sharing bring people together today?

## **19. Fellowship in Christ's Body**

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- One Body in Christ, Romans 12:9-13; 16-17
- Dishonoring the Lord's Supper, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
- The Qualities of Love, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7
- Sharing Each Other's Suffering, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7, 2 Corinthians 11:27-29
- Do Good to Everyone, Galatians 6:9-10
- Widows, 1 Timothy 5:9-10
- Keep on Loving One Another, Hebrews 13:1-3
- How to Treat Rich and Poor, James 2:1-9

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

## Section 4

# Property and Possessions

### 20. *Creation is Good*

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- Thanksgiving for Creation, 1 Timothy 4:4-5
- God Was Pleased, Genesis 1:11-12; 20-25
- Creation Shouts and Sings, Psalm 144:12-15
- God Prepares a Banquet, Isaiah 25:6-8
- The New Heaven and the New Earth, Revelation 21:1-5; 22-27

#### Key Insights:

#### Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections

- Necessities for Everyone
  - How to Pray, Matthew 6:9-13
  - God's Promise, Genesis 8:15-22
  - The Manna and the Quails, Exodus 16:1-36
  - Water from the Rock, Exodus 17:1-7
  - The Lord Gives Life, Isaiah 55:1-3
  - A Drink of Water, Matthew 10:42
  - Lord of the Sabbath, Matthew 12:1-8
  - Jesus Feeds Four Thousand People, Mark 8:1-9
  - Never Again Will They Hunger, Revelation 7:13-17

#### Key Insights:

#### Biblical Principles/Themes:

#### Reflection Questions:

## 21. *Who Owns the World?*

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- The Earth is the Lord's, Deuteronomy 10:14, Psalm 24:1, Exodus 19:5
- The Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:1-3; 13; 15; 17
- God's Gift, 1 Chronicles 29:10-14, Psalm 50:10-12, Psalm 82:8, Ecclesiastes 3:13

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

## 22. *A Carefree Attitude Toward Possessions*

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- Do Not Love the World, 1 John 2:15-17, Psalm 37:16
- No Escape from Death, Psalm 49:5-14; 16-20
- More Valuable than Riches, Psalm 119:36-37, Proverbs 11:7, Proverbs 15:16-17, Proverbs 16:16;19, Proverbs 19:1, Proverbs 22:1, Proverbs 23:4-8, Proverbs 28:6
- Useless Work, Ecclesiastes 4:4-8; 13-14
- On Borrowing, Matthew 5:42
- On Storing up Riches, Matthew 6:19-21
- God and Possessions, **Matthew 6:24-33**
- Giving and Receiving, Acts 20:32-35
- Having Nothing and Possessing Everything, 2 Corinthians 6:5; 8-10
- Learn To Be Content, Philippians 4:11-13
- Church Leaders and Money, 1 Timothy 3:2-3
- A Lasting Possession, Hebrews 10:32-34
- Be Satisfied, Hebrews 13:5, James 1:9-11

**Key Insights:**

**Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to Matthew 6:24 – 33, respond to the following questions.

1. What is the secret of this carefree attitude toward material possessions?
2. How might the absence of this carefree attitude reflect unbelief (see vv 26, 27, 30), or an unwillingness to accept Jesus as Lord?

## 23. *Are Possessions Dangerous?*

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- Ecclesiastes 5:10-12
- Proverbs 11:28
- Proverbs 13:8
- Proverbs 18:10-11
- Proverbs 28:11
- Luke 16:14-15
- Jesus and the Moneychangers, John 2:13-16
- Buying God's Gift, Acts 8:18-24, Titus 1:10-11, Revelation 3:14-18

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

#### **Temptation to Forsake God**

- The Trap of Riches, 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- Complaint of the Israelites, Numbers 11:4-20, Numbers 21:4-9
- Do Not Forget the Lord, Deuteronomy 6:4-12
- A Warning Against Forgetting, Deuteronomy 8:1-20
- Abandoning God, Deuteronomy 32:15, Proverbs 30:8-9, Ezekiel 7:20, Hosea 10:1-2, Hosea 13:4-8
- The Temptation of Jesus, Matthew 4:1-10
- Choking the Message, Matthew 13:22
- The Rich Young Man, **Matthew 19:16-30**
- The Parable of the Great Feast, Acts 5:1-11
- Rich in Good Works, 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- For the Sake of Money, Jude 11-12

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to Matthew 19:16-30, respond to the following questions:

1. Are possessions dangerous? If so, why?
2. What does this word of Jesus say to believers today?
3. Should most Christians today live a more simple lifestyle? Why or why not?

## **Greed**

- The Parable of the Rich Fool, Luke 12:13-21
- Greed's Ultimate Effect, 1 Corinthians 5:11, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
- Greed is Idolatrous, Ephesians 5:3-5, Colossians 3:5-6
- Church Helpers, 1 Timothy 3:8
- Love of Pleasure, 2 Timothy 3:1-5
- A Church Leader, Titus 1:7
- Desire for Pleasure, James 4:1-2

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

## **24. *What about Laziness?***

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- Lazy People, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, **Proverbs 6:6-11**, Proverbs 11:16, Proverbs 13:4
- Keeping Busy, Proverbs 14:23, Proverbs 20:13, Proverbs 23:21, Proverbs 24:30-34, Proverbs 28:19

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections:**

Referring to Proverbs: 6-11, respond to the following questions.

1. Is poverty sometimes due to laziness?
2. What does 2 Thessalonians 3:3-13 tell us about Paul's attitude toward laziness?

## **25. Obedience and Abundance**

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- Wisdom and Knowledge, 1 Chronicles 1:11-12
- The Lord's Blessing, Exodus 26:12-13, **Psalms 128:1-4**, Proverbs 15:6, Ecclesiastes 5:19
- Abundance as Divine Blessing
- A Rich Harvest, Leviticus 26:3-5
- Obeying God's Commands, Leviticus 26:14-16, Job 31:16-25
- Blessed by the Lord, Psalms 37:22-26, Psalms 112:1-5; 9, Proverbs 8:17-21, Proverbs 10:22
- Be Generous, Proverbs 11:25-26
- Be Humble, Proverbs 22:4
- Give to the Poor, Proverbs 28:27
- A Capable Wife, Proverbs 31:10; 13-25

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to Psalms 128:-4, respond to the following questions.

1. Why does God reward obedience with material abundance? Does he always do that?

Referring to Psalms 112:1-5, 9 and Proverbs 28:27, respond to the following questions.

1. What do these texts suggest about whether one's abundance is the result of oppression or of obedience which God has rewarded?
2. What are the characteristics of the people who are blessed by God?

**26. God Wills Justice**

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- Because He Is Lord, Deuteronomy 32:4, Leviticus 19:11-18
- A Case of Injustice, 2 Samuel 11:1-4, 6, 14-15; 2 Samuel 12:1-7; 1 Chronicles 18:14
- God Rules the World with Justice, Psalm 9:7-1, 18; Psalm 89:8, 14
- Does God Notice Injustice?, **Psalm 94:1-15**
- Cry Justice, Psalm 96:10-13
- The King and Justice, Proverbs 16:11-12, Proverbs 28:3, Proverbs 29:4, Proverbs 29:14, Proverbs 29:26
- Governmental Oppression, Ecclesiastes 5:8
- Hope for Justice, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 32:1-3, Isaiah 32:15-17
- Justice on Earth, Isaiah 42:1-7
- Justice and Righteousness, Jeremiah 33:14-15, Lamentations 3:34-36
- Let Justice Flow, Amos 5:21-24
- Coming Shalom, Micah 4:1-4
- Do What Is Just, Micah 6:6-8, Zechariah 8:14-17
- Jesus and the Law, Matthew 5:17-20, Matthew 7:12, Matthew 23:33

**Key Insights:****Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to Psalms 94:1-15, and Exodus 12:6-8, answer the following questions?

1. What does the Psalms text tell us about the nature of justice?
2. What does this text tell us about the short-term and long-term success of injustice?
3. Does the Exodus text tell us more about what justice is?

**Legal Systems**

- Judge Fairly, Exodus 23:6-8, Deuteronomy 1:16-17
- The Administration of Justice, Deuteronomy 16:18-20, Proverbs 28:21
- God's Punishment for Unjust Courts, Amos 5:10-15

**Key Insights:****Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

## **Economic Systems**

- Do Not Cheat, Leviticus 19:35-36, Deuteronomy 24:10-15, Deuteronomy 25:13-16, Proverbs 11:1, Proverbs 13:23, Proverbs 20:10
- Stop Violence and Oppression, Ezekiel 45:9-10
- The Lord Is Judge, Malachi 3:5
- Drunkenness and Economic Oppression, **Isaiah 5:8-13, 15-16, 22-24**
- A Just Person, Ezekiel 18:5-9
- Things that Disgust God, Ezekiel 22:1-3, 6-12, 15-16, Amos 2:6-8

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to the highlighted passages from Isaiah, answer the following questions:

1. Is there any indication that the sin described in v. 8 is illegal? How often is injustice illegal?
2. What different kinds of sins are condemned in these verses?
3. Are things like drunkenness more or less sinful than participating in structural sins like economic oppression?

## **27. *Legalized Oppression***

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- Unjust Laws, **Isaiah 10:1-4**, Psalm 94:20-23

### **Key Insights:**

### **Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections**

Referring to Isaiah 10:1-4, respond to the following questions:

1. How does this text add to our understanding of structural sin?
2. Why are unjust laws passed?
3. What warning does God give to societies that legislate injustice? (See also Psalms 94:20ff.)

## 28. *God's Response to Structural Sin*

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- The Fate of Jerusalem, **Micah 3:1-4, 9-12**
- Ahab's Punishment, 1 Kings 21:1-19, Proverbs 20:28
- God's Revenge, Isaiah 1:21-26
- Change Your Ways, Jeremiah 7:1-15
- Rejection of God's Chosen Nation, Jeremiah 12:1-2, 5, 7
- The Terrible Drought, Jeremiah 14:1-6, 11-16
- Building One's House by Injustice, **Jeremiah 22:13-19**
- Destruction of Jerusalem, Lamentations 1:1, 11; Lamentations 2:11-12, 19-20; Lamentations 4:9-10
- Nebuchadnezzar's Punishment, **Daniel 4:24-28**
- Drought and Famine, Amos 4:6-9
- Twisting Justice, Amos 5:6-9
- Israel Warned of Exile, Amos 6:4-7, Amos 7:10-17
- A Different Kind of Famine, Amos 8:11-12
- Wealth and Glamour Gone, Revelation 18:1-3, 9-15, 24

### Key Insights:

### Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections

Referring to the highlighted texts, respond to the following questions.

1. What does the emotion in the Micah passage convey about the depth of God's passion for justice?
2. What kinds of injustice are condemned here? In what ways does God intend to punish them?
3. What is the attitude of the religious leaders to the injustice? (See also Amos 7:10-17). Can you think of modern parallels?
4. What kinds of injustice is condemned in the Jeremiah passage? Can you think of modern parallels?
5. From the Daniel passage, What does God expect of leaders?
6. Is God at work today pulling down unjust rulers and unjust societies? Any examples?

## Section 6

# Responsible Stewardship and Costly Discipleship

- On Being a Disciple, **Matthew 10:37-39**
- Stewardship over Creation, Genesis 1:26-31
- Placed over all Creation, **Psalms 8:1-9**
- The Parable of the Three Servants, Matthew 25:14-30
- The Widow's Offering, Mark 12:41-44
- The Would-Be Followers of Jesus, Luke 9:57-62
- The Cost of Being a Disciple, Luke 14:25-33
- Christian Freedom, Romans 14:1-12
- The Preeminence of Love, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- Practice the Word, James 1:22-24, James 4:17
- True Happiness, Matthew 5:1-12

### Key Insights:

### Biblical Principles/Themes/Reflections

Referring to Matthew 10:37 – 39 and Psalms 8:1-9, respond to the following questions:

1. How can we celebrate the glory of creation and human beings in our work for justice?
2. What is God's command with respect to the rest of creation?
3. Why did Jesus state the cost of discipleship so harshly?
4. Is there a cross for those today who follow in Jesus' teachings regarding the poor and justice?