

RELATIONSHIPS: LESS FORTUNATE

Off the top of your head, brainstorm some key ideas in the Bible about being poor. What is God's heart for the poor and needy?

JAMES 1:27, ISAIAH 1:17

According to James 1:27, what are "pure" religious actions?

Based on the command in Isaiah 1:17, what can we tell is important to God?

Why do you think God cares about the poor, oppressed, orphans, and widows?

READ 1 JOHN 3:17-19

Why is just talking about helping people not enough?

If the love of God is in us, we will care about those in need.

PROVERBS 21:13

Does this verse remind you of any of Jesus' teachings? (Hint: Golden Rule Matthew 7:12)

How do you feel about what this verse is saying?

READ PROVERBS 22:2

God cares about all people, rich AND poor. He made us all, but why do you think it is important to Him that we take special care to provide for the less fortunate?

APPLICATION

How might your cell group do a better job of reaching out to those less fortunate?

What are some injustices and oppressions in your town/school? How can you stand up against injustice and oppression in your own school?

What are ways to help the less fortunate? (other than giving them money, being nice to them, going on a spring break trip, etc. Push them to give thought out answers, not the easy answers.)

Helping the less fortunate in a lasting way may require lots of effort. What should motivate us to go the extra mile? (Highlight how Jesus went to extreme lengths to help us in our need of a Savior)