

STEPPING UP **AND STEPPING OUT**

LEARNING A NEW MINDSET ON BENEVOLENCE





INFORMATION FOR BIBLE CLASS CHAIRMEN AND TEACHERS

Thank you for agreeing to be a part of this special study. This will not be your standard “bible study” but an opportunity to create a discussion on a very important topic: how should the church handle poverty, and the people connected? As you probably know, there is a plethora of views on this controversial topic- we are hoping that through this study we can get everyone on the same page and create a common attitude within our family here at Hillcrest.

Here are some things to remember going into this study:

We need to be extremely careful how we verbally approach this from a teacher/facilitator perspective, and remind our classes of the same thing. There will be people in your classes that have received help from agencies or even Hillcrest as well, and we do not want to point them out or make them feel uncomfortable or like a lower class member. We are all poor in some way, and need to remember that it is only in Christ that we have true wealth. Try to refrain from using “us” and “them” verbiage when you are referring to those who are materially challenged.

In sessions 3-8 there will be an accompanying video that you will need to show as part of your class. These will be available online to download for your computer, or we can put it on a jump drive for you. These will be locally produced with our own people, and will explain some of the issues in depth for that session. These will generally be 10-12 mins in length, so you can still have plenty of time for bible study and discussion. If your classroom is not video ready or you struggle with technical things, call the office for help. These videos are vital for the discussion. We will also have some testimonial videos that will be a part of the final three sessions.

Each of the sessions has an outline and main points, as well as some accompanying information you can go to online for further study. Please utilize the extra info into your outline and presentation. The main points should be recognized with accompanying scriptures, but how you present them is up to you. As said earlier, this is in a more discussive format so allow your class to share from their life experiences, but watching time so that all points can be made clearly. There will also be Life Group material available for those who wish to use it. There will be a “teach the teacher” class on Wednesday nights beginning August 21st.

This curriculum was formed by the Family/Community Team made up of these people:

Kevin and Christina Batten

Kirk and Lynne Bruton

Trenton Carothers

JR and Carmen Foster

Jack Hardcastle

Jody and Lisa Jones

Pam McGrew

Perry Reeves

Cleddy and Pat Varner

Walt Worgull

Lauren Wright



ADULT BIBLE CLASSES ON COMMUNITY (AND HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE)

Detailed Descriptions by Section

◆ SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION- HILLCREST COMMUNITY HELP

This will be done in an “all adult classes combined” form in the worship center, highlighting the benevolence work being done with our neighbors and specifically how it is being done. Emphasis will also be on how members can become involved.

⇒ **Key Question:** What is Hillcrest doing right now to alleviate poverty in our community?

◆ SECTION 2: DIRECTION- BIBLICAL FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING POVERTY

Before talking about specifics of the “how's”, we need to understand the “whys”. Why do we as Christians have a responsibility to help the poor? How did Jesus do it? What were His teachings about the poor? Who is ultimately responsible?

⇒ **Key Question:** How can benevolence and local evangelism work together?

⇒ **Source:** *When Helping Hurts*, Corbett and Finkert, Chalmers Center

◆ SECTION 3: DISFUNCTION- UNDERSTANDING THE POVERTY MINDSET

One of the things people need to understand is there is a different mindset among our neighbors, especially about spending money. These can be from generational poverty, inability to mentally grasp how money works, or even just bad decision making. How do we help people without being judgmental when there is a mental disconnect?

⇒ **Key Question:** Why is it so hard to understand the way people think?

⇒ **Sources:** *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, Ruby K. Payne, Chalmers Center

◆ SECTION 4: CONNECTION- BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS

Once we are able to understand how the poverty mindset thinks, we can then go to the next level: building relationships. How do you create a relationship with someone who is very different in thought and actions (socioeconomically)? How should the church respond and continue to be in relationship with people?

⇒ **Key Question:** How far should I go and extend myself emotionally?

⇒ **Sources:** *Becoming Whole*, Fikkert and Kapic, Chalmers Center



ADULT BIBLE CLASSES ON COMMUNITY (AND HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE)

Week by Week Topics With Dates

◆ **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION TO SERIES- HILLCREST COMMUNITY HELP**

Combined Classes in Auditorium (Fam/Com Team) *August 25th*

Key Question: What is Hillcrest doing right now to alleviate poverty in our community?

◆ **SECTION 2: DIRECTION- BIBLICAL FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING POVERTY**

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 26:11

11 The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me.

Week 1: The View of Jesus on the Poor (Sep. 1)

Week 2: The View of Scripture on the Poor (Sep. 8)

Key Question: How can benevolence and local evangelism work together?

Sources: *When Helping Hurts*, Corbett and Finkert, Chalmers Center

◆ **SECTION 3: DISFUNCTION- UNDERSTANDING THE POVERTY MINDSET**

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 John 3:17

17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Week 3: Language and Story/Hidden Rules (Sep. 22)

Week 4: Generational Poverty (Sep. 29)

Week 5: Support Systems and Parents (Oct. 6)

Key Question: How can I speak the language of poverty?

Sources: *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, Ruby K. Payne, Chalmers Center



ADULT BIBLE CLASSES ON COMMUNITY (AND HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE)

Week by Week Topics With Dates

♦ SECTION 4: CONNECTION- BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN GRACE AND TRUTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Colossians 3:12

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Week 6: Understanding and Living in their Culture is not the same (Oct. 13)

Week 7: Meeting Needs without Needing Meetings (Oct. 20)

Week 8: Changing the Culture of our Church Family at Hillcrest (Oct. 27)

Key Question: How far should I go and extend myself to change poverty around me?

Sources: *Becoming Whole*, Fikkert and Kopic, Chalmers Center