

STEPPING UP AND STEPPING OUT



LEARNING A NEW MINDSET ON BENEVOLENCE

INTRODUCTION:

Be sure and remind everyone of the importance of being careful how we talk about the materially challenged even within our own Bible classes.

OPENING QUESTION (10 Minutes)

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like everyone was speaking a different language? What was that like for you? Were you able to bridge that gap of misunderstanding?

OPENING VIDEO (10 Minutes)

UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE AND HIDDEN STORIES

Share the video with the class and discuss how our *language and life experience* may differ from those who are materially challenged. What hidden stories do we have in the church?

MAIN POINTS: (App. 15 minutes)

How were parables a form of language everyone could understand no matter what socioeconomic status they were? Look at the parable in Luke 16:19-31 and discuss how this parable approaches the mindset of the people.

⇒ THE WEALTH COMPARISON (19-21)

What distinguished the two main characters here? How do you think the people responded to this story? What was their mindset at the beginning?

SESSION 3:

UNDERSTANDING THE MINDSET OF POVERTY

MAIN IDEAS FROM VIDEO:

Generational Poverty

Situational Poverty

REGISTERS OF LANGUAGE

⇒ Frozen

⇒ Formal

⇒ Consultative

⇒ Casual

⇒ Intimate

UNDERSTANDING DISCOURSE PATTERNS

⇒ Formal

⇒ Casual

LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

⇒ Primary Discourse

⇒ Secondary Discourse

⇒ Story Structure

⇒ Specificity of Vocabulary

HIDDEN RULES

⇒ Comes out of Environment

⇒ Bottom Line

Poverty

Middle Class

Wealth

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⇒ THE WORLDLY SEPARATION (22-24)

How did this flip the message? What would the mindset of the people be at this point? How would this connect?

⇒ THE WIDE CHASM (25-26)

How does this also describe the chasm between the wealthy and the poor? Does this chasm exist today in our church? What is our mindset?

⇒ THE WORTHLESS CONVERSATION (27-31)

Does this part seem harsh to the listener? How does this happen in today's world? How can we bring grace and truth to those who will not listen?

FINAL THOUGHT: How did Jesus use this story to connect to the materially poor of his audience?

How can we do the same thing in our conversations with those who struggle financially?

CLOSER (5 Minutes)

Discuss ways we can better learn how to communicate with those in poverty, knowing a different approach is needed. How can just handing out money be a bad thing? Why is communication and relationship building more important to the process of helping?

Family Discussion/Question for the Road:

As a family, what are some things we can do to put ourselves in situations to help and have conversations with those in poverty? Brainstorm ways you can talk more with people in poverty (safety first, always) so we can better understand the process.

SESSION 3:

UNDERSTANDING THE MINDSET OF POVERTY

LUKE 16:19-31 (NIV)

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

30 "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

31 "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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SESSION 3:

EXTRA MATERIAL

Here is some supplemental material on the mindset of the poor:

- [A Framework for Understanding Poverty](#), Ruby K. Payne
- <https://donnapartow.com/poverty-mindset/>
- <https://www.epi.org/blog/is-poverty-a-mindset/>
- <https://www.paystubsnow.com/what-is-a-poverty-mindset-and-how-to-get-out-of-one/>
- <https://www.chicagobooth.edu/review/how-poverty-changes-your-mind-set>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zc_o5sEu6w&t=232s
- <https://millionairemindsetroadmap.com/understanding-and-overcoming-the-poverty-mindset-a-guide-for-novice-millionaires/>

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SESSION 3:

LIFE GROUPS

Here are some common signs of a poverty mindset:

- Victim Mentality: Feeling like a victim of circumstances or others' decisions rather than taking responsibility for one's own choices and outcomes.
- Frugal to a Fault: Resisting spending money except on essentials, constantly searching for bargains, and obsessing over getting deals or freebies. Outrages by any excesses.
- Attribution to Luck: Believing that success is solely attributed to luck rather than personal effort, skill, or determination.
- Self-Denial: Denying oneself pleasure or enjoyment as a way of life, even when indulging financially is feasible.
- Guilt and Comparison: Feeling guilty for having more than others and constantly comparing oneself to those with less.
- Fear of Judgment: Fear of being seen as boastful when sharing successes or accomplishments.
- Money Taboos: Refraining from treating others or enjoying experiences if they have more money than themselves.
- Never Enough: Never feeling satisfied or secure, always believing that one could lose everything they've worked hard to accumulate.
- Martyr mentality: working so hard for so little reward and status. Separating work from living – clocking off from hourly-paid work and then complaining and not earning.

<https://millionairemindsetroadmap.com/understanding-and-overcoming-the-poverty-mindset-a-guide-for-novice-millionaires/>

How do these signs jeopardize our spirituality/relationship with God? How do they affect our relationships with each other, or with those in poverty?

Compare these with the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. How do these fruits affect our relationship with God/others/those in poverty? What should be common signs for a “fruits of the Spirit” mindset?