

# ASSISTING THE POOR

## CHANGE YOUR WORLD: PART 5

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### CAUSES OF MATERIAL POVERTY

- **COMPLACENCY**  
*"A lazy person will end up poor, but a hard worker will become rich." (Proverbs 10:4, NCV)*
- **CARELESSNESS**  
*"It's stupid to try to get something for nothing, or run up huge bills you can never pay." (Proverbs 17:18, The Message)*
- **CALAMITY**  
*"People can never predict when hard times might come. Like fish in a net or birds in a trap, people are caught by sudden tragedy." (Ecclesiastes 9:12, NLT)*
- **CULTURE**  
*"So the Egyptians treated us cruelly, oppressed us, and made us do back-breaking work for them." (Deuteronomy 26:6, GW)*
- **CORRUPTION**  
*"There are people who take cruel advantage of the poor and needy; that is the way they make their living." (Proverbs 30:14, GNB)*
- **CAUGHT IN A CYCLE**  
*"I'm written off as a lost cause, one more statistic, a hopeless case." (Psalm 88:4, The Message)*

### HOW CAN I ASSIST THE POOR?

Define poverty...

An earned <b><u>CONSEQUENCE</u></b>	<b><u>RELATE</u></b> with the poor
A lack of <b><u>KNOWLEDGE</u></b>	<b><u>EDUCATE</u></b> the poor
<b><u>OPPRESSION</u></b> by the powerful	<b><u>LITIGATE</u></b> for justice
<b><u>SINS</u></b> of the poor	<b><u>PROPAGATE</u></b> the gospel
Lack of <b><u>RESOURCES</u></b>	<b><u>DONATE</u></b> material goods

#### 1. TREAT THEM WITH **DIGNITY**.

*"The rich and poor have this in common: The LORD made them both." (Proverbs 22:2, NLT)*

*“Give the same consideration to all others alike. Pay no regard to social standing, but meet humble people on their own terms...” (Romans 12:16, NJB)*

**2. OFFER THEM OPPORTUNITY.**

*“She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy.” (Proverbs 31:20, NLT)*

*“When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers.” (Galatians 6:10, NCV)*

**3. DEFEND THEM FROM INEQUITY.**

*“The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.” (Proverbs 29:7, NIV)*

*“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves...defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31:8–9, NCV)*

**4. TRANSFORM THEM WITH LIBERTY.**

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor...to proclaim liberty to the captives...” (Luke 4:18, GNB)*

*“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” (2 Corinthians 3:17, NASB95)*

**5. SHARE WITH GENEROSITY.**

*“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?” (1 John 3:17, NIV)*

*“If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD— and he will repay you!” (Proverbs 19:17, NLT)*

**ACTIONS**

PEACE Gathering on 11/13

PEACE Offering on 11/20