

IN THE WORLD • LIVE OUT YOUR “AMEN”

CONNECT

Today we're going to see how well we're getting to know each other. To begin this meeting, we will go around the circle and use an adjective (a word that describes) to describe the person on our right. Without help, recall their name, and try to describe them with an adjective, and explain why you chose that word.

(I.e. this is Emmanuel and he is *dedicated*.)

ENGAGE

On Sabbath we discussed that in Psalm 68:5, God presents himself as *Father to the fatherless* and *Protector of the widow*. These statements are two of many found in the scriptures where God identifies with the poor. In fact, in Jesus, God not only identifies with the poor, but also actually *becomes* one with the poor. Yes, the creator of the universe becomes a poor man with dusty feet and no home to call his own. The poor *must* mean a lot to him!

Now, let's pull up Isaiah 1 for a moment. We're going to read this passage in the order and using the same outline we followed on Sabbath: *Amen!* / *Wait, What?* / *Uh oh...* / *Help me, Jesus!* / *Amen!*

Amen!

1. Read verse 18 and discuss what causes you to shout “Amen!”

Wait, What?

2. Read verses 11-15(a) and discuss what causes you to pause and say, “Wait, what?”

Uh oh...

3. Read verse 15(b) and discuss why we must to pause and say, “uh oh...”

Notes:

- The whole nation was guilty of injustice and oppression to the poor (Verses 4-6) because of their silence and inaction.
- God was insulted by religion (piety) without Mercy.

Help me, Jesus!

4. Read verse 16-17 and discuss why we need to pray, “Help me Jesus!”

Notes:

- God calls them to *learn* to do good.
- We are addicted to good intentions. But the Gospel calls us to good actions.

Amen!

Read verse 18 again. God offers to sit down *and reason together* with us. What are his next words? The gospel! Sin had made us orphans and spiritually poor, but through Jesus we are now clean, have a Father, and are rich in his grace. And so, in gratitude we say *Amen!*

5. At the cross, God showed his love for us. What does that love require from us today with regards to the poor?

CHALLENGE

What is the gospel requiring you to **do** for those in need as a group this season? Intentions are nice, but what actions must you take?