

theHOME SHEET

Conduit for Change | Part 2 | Ending Poverty

February 13, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING

“Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.”

-Deuteronomy 15:11

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

1. In the scripture above, God makes it very clear that no matter how big the need in the community may be, it is our responsibility to care for the needs of the poor. What’s a small step you can make towards eliminating poverty?
2. Reflect on the statistic that about 25% of people in Baton Rouge live in poverty. Were you surprised by this fact? Does it inspire you to be a conduit for change? Does it intimidate you?
3. Marlee talks about concentrated and systemic poverty. In these types of poverty, many circumstances stack against someone so that they will likely remain in poverty forever unless someone helps them out of it. How does this change your view of people in poverty?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Along with your small group, family, or friends, brainstorm what you can do to combat poverty. Come up with a few action steps you can take together and make a plan to implement these ideas. Marlee suggests reading more about concentrated poverty, giving to poverty-fighting nonprofits, and getting involved in redistricting conversations. Pastor Fernie suggests volunteering at organizations such as Mid City Redevelopment Alliance, the One Stop, the food bank, or Habitat for Humanity. What will your small group do?

SERMON RESOURCES

- a. 2020 Census (<https://www.labudget.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/LBP-Census-2020-Covid-19.pdf>)
- b. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (<https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-quick-guide-to-snap-eligibility-andbenefits>)
- c. U.S. Poverty Rate by State in 2021 (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewdepietro/2021/11/04/us-poverty-rate-by-state-in-2021/?sh=669feef31b38>)
- d. *The Good and Beautiful Community* by James Bryan Smith
- e. *Being Poor in America* by Duchess Harris`