

“God has always wanted the vulnerable in society to be cared for. He never intended for them to languish in poverty, abuse, slavery, homelessness, or other types of devastation. When we care for individuals who are trapped in these ways, when we show them love and help them move toward freedom and wholeness, we participate in bringing a little part of God’s Kingdom back into alignment with His greater plan. We do justice and God smiles.”

JOHN M. PERKINS, DREAM WITH ME: RACE, LOVE, AND THE STRUGGLE WE MUST WIN

You have completed the *Options Together*™ Bible Study! As you have prayed, studied and watched, you have likely grown in your understanding of people who experience poverty. You’ve also learned about ways God may be calling you to engage with those on the margins. So, what’s next?

In this module, you will have an opportunity to discuss what you have learned. Then, we will take time to pray and ask God to help you process your thoughts, feelings and calling to next steps.

Scripture

Looking at his disciples, He [Jesus] said, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

LUKE 6:20

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 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? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 JOHN 3:16-18

Discussion

1. During this study, what ideas were new to you?
2. What story from the videos did you find to be impactful? Why?
3. What Scripture verse or verses have been meaningful to you? Why?
4. In what ways do you feel better prepared to engage with issues of poverty? In what ways do you still want/need to learn and grow?
5. What have you seen in this study that has caused you to grieve?
6. Which of these emotions are you feeling as we think about putting what we have learned from this study into action: excitement, fear, guilt, worry, anticipation, hope, love, sadness, confidence? How could these emotions help or hurt us in being obedient to what God is calling us to do?

 Pray

Adoration *Praise God for who He is and what He is doing*

Confession *Corporate or personal confession around issues raised during the study*

Thanksgiving *Thank God for what He has shown you during the study*

Supplication *Ask God to direct you in what He has placed on your heart to do*

 Action Items

 20 MINUTES

- How can you continue to be in prayer about what you have learned?
- Who else would benefit from this study and how can you help them connect to it?
- How can you act on what you have learned?
- How might your financial giving reflect what you have learned?
- What skills and abilities could you bring to the table to address this issue?
- Who can you invite to join you in the next phase of your journey?
- Is there anyone in particular that God might be calling you to pray for, show care to or share with?
- What opportunities to serve are available in existing ministries in your city?
- Is there the possibility of a church partnership that could be established in your city?
- Others?