

## Ordinary People Making A Difference: Poverty

*“The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.”*

### Proverbs 29:7

#### I. What Causes Poverty?

- A. **Complacency** Pro. 10:4 *“Lazy hands make for poverty...”*
- B. **Carelessness**. Pro. 21:5 *“Hasty speculation brings poverty.”*
- C. **Calamity**. Eccl. 9:12 *“A man never knows when he is going to run into bad luck. He is like a fish caught in a net, or a bird caught in a snare.”*
- D. **Culture**. Deut. 26:6 *“The Egyptians treated us harshly and forced us to work as slaves.”*
- E. **Corruption**: Pro.30:14 *“There are people who take cruel advantage of the poor and needy; that is the way they make their living.”*

#### II. How Can I Help?

- A. **Share the Kingdom**. Mt. 6:33 *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*
- B. **Treat the Poor with Dignity**. Pro. 22:2 *“The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all.”*
- C. **Offer Opportunity**. Gal. 6:10 *“Whenever we have the opportunity, we have to do what is good for everyone, especially for the family of believers.”*
- D. **Defend them from Inequity**. Pro. 31:8-9 *“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; defend the rights of all those who have nothing.”*
- E. **Share with Generosity**. Isaiah 58:7 *“...share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”*

#### III. Why Should I Care?

- A. **It Honors God**. Pro. 14:31 *“Whoever oppresses the poor insults his maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors him.”*
- B. **We can Learn**.
- C. **In caring for the poor, we meet Jesus**. Mt. 25:40 *“...Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me.”*

#### **Application:**

1. Focus on the Fruit of Spirit: **“Love”** Read Mt. 5, 1 Cor. 13, to **Kindness** and **Goodness**.
2. **Host a coffee** with a couple of other families or individuals to further discuss how to impact the problem of poverty in our world, and communities.
3. **Intentionally** involve yourself or your family in getting to know, or in **ministry to the poor**.” Be aware of others in your context and relationships.