

Faith and Poverty

Module 3: A Justice Response

The third eight-session program of the JustFaith poverty series, *Faith and Poverty: A Justice Response*, awakens participants to systemic barriers that keep people from rising out of poverty, barriers which are often invisible to those of us who don't have to face them. This program also equips participants to work for change and healing within their communities.

In addition to the readings, group members engage in prayer and spiritual practices throughout the week between sessions. Participants emerge from this program better equipped to help alleviate poverty in their communities, as well as stand in solidarity with those experiencing poverty.

Books

- Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
- Strength to Love by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right by Lisa Sharon Harper:

Session Outline

Session 1: Talking about Hard Things After reviewing group guidelines for holy conversation, the group spiritually and emotionally prepares to confront difficult issues that perpetuate poverty.

Session 2: Systemic Racism 101 The group learns what systemic racism is and discusses how it perpetuates poverty.

Session 3: Mass Incarceration Participants explore how mass incarceration traps families and communities in poverty.

Session 4: Immigration and Poverty The group learns about the policies and practices that bind immigrant families and communities to poverty.

Session 5: The Wealth Gap After hearing from a guest speaker from the local community, participants explore how our nation's wealth gap affects social mobility.

Session 6: Poverty and the Environment The group discusses the relationship among environmental justice, climate change, and poverty.

Session 7: Preferential Option for the Poor The group explores Scripture's power to bring liberation and renewal to marginalized communities, as well as our own congregations and relationships.

Session 8: Local Advocacy 101 The group explores techniques for creating effective change in their local communities.