



A FEW SIMPLE STEPS TO HELPING THE POOR

Poverty is a huge problem in our world. Millions of kids go to bed hungry each night. And when God thinks about these kids, He feels sad. And so should we!

But do you know what God does when He feels sad? He takes action! We can too!

In the Bible, God gives us many of ways to help the poor. So, let's go on an adventure through the Bible and look at two things we can do this week to help!

WEEK ONE: SAVE MONEY FOR THOSE IN NEED //



DAY ONE: LEARN

This first verse about how to help the poor is probably the most practical in the entire Bible! It helps us understand God's plan to give food to those who don't have enough to feed their family.



LEVITICUS 19:9-10

"When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. It is the same as your grape crop – do not strip every last bunch of grapes from the vines, and do not pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the LORD your God."

As we get started, it helps to understand a little bit about the first people God gave this command to. The ancient Israelites were God's chosen people in the Old Testament. God picked them and gave them lots of important rules so that they could show all the other people in the world what God looked like. God wanted the Israelites to show others His holiness, love, grace, forgiveness, and that He always gives His people everything they need.

When God began building a group of people (the Israelites) who would show the world what He was like, He didn't want anyone to get left behind. **All throughout the Old Testament, and especially in the first five books, God showed His care for the poor, the foreigner, and those who often get forgotten.**

And because God cared for the poor, He wanted His people to care for the poor. Just like a good dad wants his kids to follow his example, God wanted the Israelites to follow His command in Leviticus 19:9-10. In fact, caring for the poor was SO important, this rule is repeated in Leviticus 23:22!

Unfortunately, even back at the beginning of the Old Testament, not everyone had enough food to eat. But if all of God's people followed this very important rule in Leviticus 19:9-10, no one would be hungry!

Today, take some time to think about what it might be like to live without enough food. Talk with your family members and friends and ask how they would feel. Write down your thoughts here.

“

DAY TWO: LOOK

Read the verse below three or four times slowly. Look for any repeated words, words you don't understand, or anything that stands out to you. You can also answer these questions (and ask a parent if you need help): Who wrote this passage? Who first heard this command? What did God tell His people to do? When were they to obey His command? Why did God give His people this rule? What would happen if they didn't obey?



LEVITICUS 19:9-10

“When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. It is the same as your grape crop – do not strip every last bunch of grapes from the vines, and do not pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the LORD your God.”

“

DAY THREE: REFLECT

Let's take some time to think about Leviticus 19:9-10 and what it means for **us today**. And most importantly, let's figure out what it says about **God!**

1. When I think about the poor, including kids who do not have enough food to eat, it makes me feel _____, _____, and _____ .
2. How do you think the Israelites felt when God gave them this command?
3. If all of God's people in the Old Testament obeyed this rule, how many people do you think would have gone to bed hungry each night?
4. These verses remind me that God is _____, _____, and _____ .
5. Why do you think these verses end with "I am the LORD your God"?

DAY FOUR: PRAY

The most important thing we can do for the poor and the hungry is **pray!** Why? Because the God of the universe, who loves you and loves the poor, will answer your prayers!

JUST THINKING.....

If Christians pray for the poor, why are there still so many poor people around the world?

Many people have asked this question. And there are different ways to consider this question. The truth is, the problem of poverty is very tough to explain and understand.

Isaiah 10:1-2 says: "What sorrow awaits the unjust judges and those who issue unfair laws. They deprive the poor of justice and deny the rights of the needy among my people." Unfortunately, many people in the world don't have the food, clothing, or other things they need because they live in places with a history of injustice and leaders who don't obey God and have made bad laws.

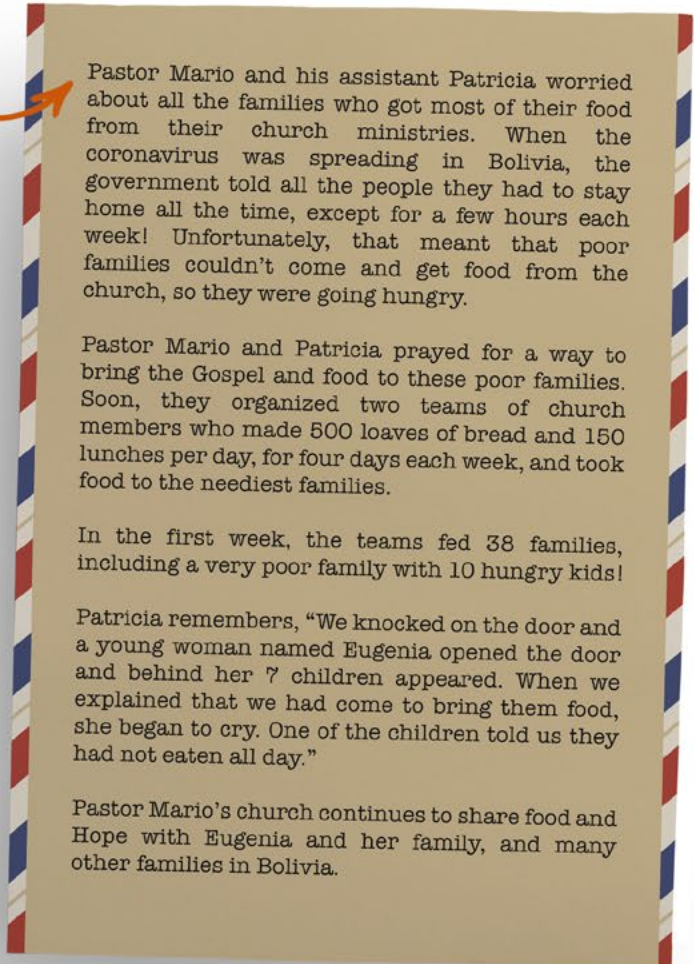
Another reason there are so many poor people in the world is because those who have more than they need do not share it with the poor. In other words, the rich (which include most of us) spend most of our money meeting our own needs (and wants) rather than giving to help the poor. James 2:15-16 says, "Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?"

So, as believers, we should pray for **and** share with the poor!

We would love to share a story about how Christians in Bolivia are helping the poor.

Now, it's your turn! Just as Pastor Mario and Patricia prayed for wisdom on how to help the poor in their community, you can do the same thing!

In the space below, write a prayer asking God to give you guidance and wisdom on how you can help the poor. Share your prayer with your parents, siblings, or a friend and ask them to pray with you! If you need any help thinking of things to pray about, you can check out [Bright Hope's Prayer Wall!](#)



Pastor Mario and his assistant Patricia worried about all the families who got most of their food from their church ministries. When the coronavirus was spreading in Bolivia, the government told all the people they had to stay home all the time, except for a few hours each week! Unfortunately, that meant that poor families couldn't come and get food from the church, so they were going hungry.

Pastor Mario and Patricia prayed for a way to bring the Gospel and food to these poor families. Soon, they organized two teams of church members who made 500 loaves of bread and 150 lunches per day, for four days each week, and took food to the neediest families.

In the first week, the teams fed 38 families, including a very poor family with 10 hungry kids!

Patricia remembers, "We knocked on the door and a young woman named Eugenia opened the door and behind her 7 children appeared. When we explained that we had come to bring them food, she began to cry. One of the children told us they had not eaten all day."

Pastor Mario's church continues to share food and Hope with Eugenia and her family, and many other families in Bolivia.

DAY FIVE: TAKE ACTION

Now that you have read, prayed, and thought about Leviticus 19:9-10, it's time to do something to help the poor!

So, grab a parent, sister, brother, or a friend and brainstorm three ways you can put Leviticus 19:9-10 into action. We will give you a few ideas to get you started!

1. Put an empty jar in the middle of your living room, dining room, or wherever people will see it. Decorate the jar so that it reminds you of the many kids around the world who don't have enough food to eat. Whenever you have spare change, or an extra dollar or two, put it in the jar. At the end of each month, use this money to help the poor. You can go to the Bright Hope catalog to find lots of ways to give!

2. When you eat lunch or dinner as a family, set a place at your table to represent a hungry child in Bolivia. Then, before you eat your meal, take some time as a family to pray for hungry kids in Bolivia and around the world – that God would meet their needs and that He would use you to do it!

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

DAY SIX: ACTIVITY

Today, take some time to reread the passage and have fun finding some of the key words in the **Word Search** below!

LEVITICUS 19:9-10

“When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. It is the same as your grape crop – do not strip every last bunch of grapes from the vines, and do not pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the LORD your God.”

WORD SEARCH ///

POOR	HARVEST	GRAIN	GRAPES
GIVE	SHARE	LOVE	I AM THE LORD

I	A	M	T	H	E	L	O	R	D
P	Q	W	E	R	H	T	U	I	O
G	P	A	S	D	A	F	G	H	S
R	J	P	O	O	R	K	L	Z	E
A	V	B	L	O	V	E	C	X	P
I	N	M	Q	W	E	F	L	G	A
N	E	R	A	H	S	E	S	H	R
U	Y	I	L	O	T	D	F	B	G

WEEK TWO: STAND UP FOR THE POOR //



DAY ONE: LEARN

Now that you have spent some time praying for the poor, it's time to learn how God wants us to stand up for them!



PSALM 82:3-4

"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

Imagine that you and your family didn't have enough food to eat. That would be a very hard way to live. But then imagine that when you went to school or to the playground, a group of bullies made fun of you because you were poor. How would that make you feel?

It's hard to understand that there are people who choose to be unkind to others because they are poor, or because they are different. But as Christians, we should never do that! We should treat all people like Jesus did—with love and kindness.

And you know what else God asks His people to do? To stand up for the poor and protect them just like God does! Proverbs 22:22-23 reminds us how God stands up for the poor: "Don't rob the poor just because you can, or exploit the needy in court. For the LORD is their defender. He will ruin anyone who ruins them."

DAY TWO: LOOK

Read the verse below three or four times slowly. Notice any repeated words, words you don't understand, or anything that stands out to you. Write your thoughts in the space below the passage.



PSALM 82:3-4

"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

DAY THREE: REFLECT

Let's take some time to think about Psalm 82:3-4 and what it means for **us today**. And most importantly, let's figure out what it says about **God!**

1. When I think about bullies mistreating people because they are poor, it makes me feel _____, _____, and _____.
2. How do you think God feels when people are mean to the poor? (If you need help, read Psalm 37:14-15 or Proverbs 22:22-23.)
3. How can you defend the poor and protect their needs?
4. These verses remind me that God is _____, _____, and _____.
5. Why do you think God cares so much about the poor?

DAY FOUR: PRAY

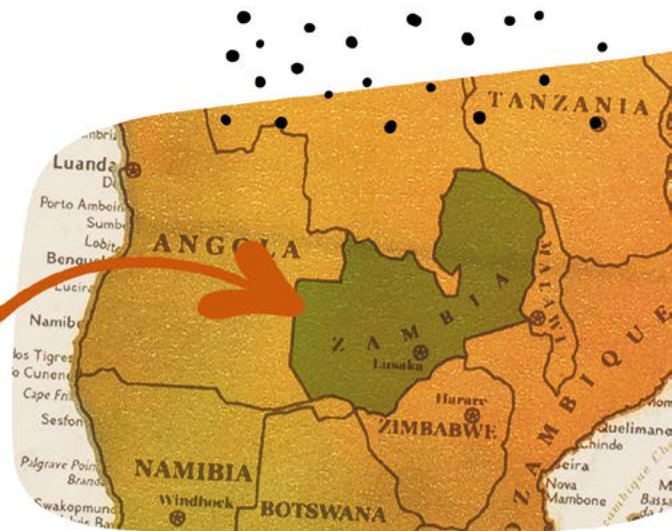
The most important thing we can do for the poor who are being mistreated is pray! Remember, when you pray, your loving, heavenly Father will answer your prayers!

We would love to share a story about how God stands up for poor kids in **Zambia**.

Children born in very poor families often don't have enough nutritious food with the vitamins and minerals they need to grow up healthy. As a result, many of these kids are born with physical problems that make them look different than other kids. And, some unkind people make fun of these children because they look or act different. Children just like Obed.

Obed lives in a small village in Zambia. Obed was born with club feet (feet that are bent sideways at the ankle). Because of his feet, Obed couldn't go to school, run and play with his friends, or help his family with chores.

On top of that, other kids made fun of Obed because he looked different.



Now, it's your turn! Would you pray for the many poor kids in Zambia who are born with club feet or other physical problems?

In the space below, write a prayer asking God to give you guidance and wisdom on how you can help kids like Obed. Share your prayer with your parents, siblings, or a friend and ask them to pray with you! If you need any help thinking of things to pray about, you can check out our [Prayer Wall!](#)



DAY FIVE: TAKE ACTION

Now that you have read, prayed, and thought about Psalm 82: 3-4, it is time to do something to help the poor!

So, grab a parent, sibling, or a friend and think of three ways you can put these verses into action.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

DAY SIX: ACTIVITY

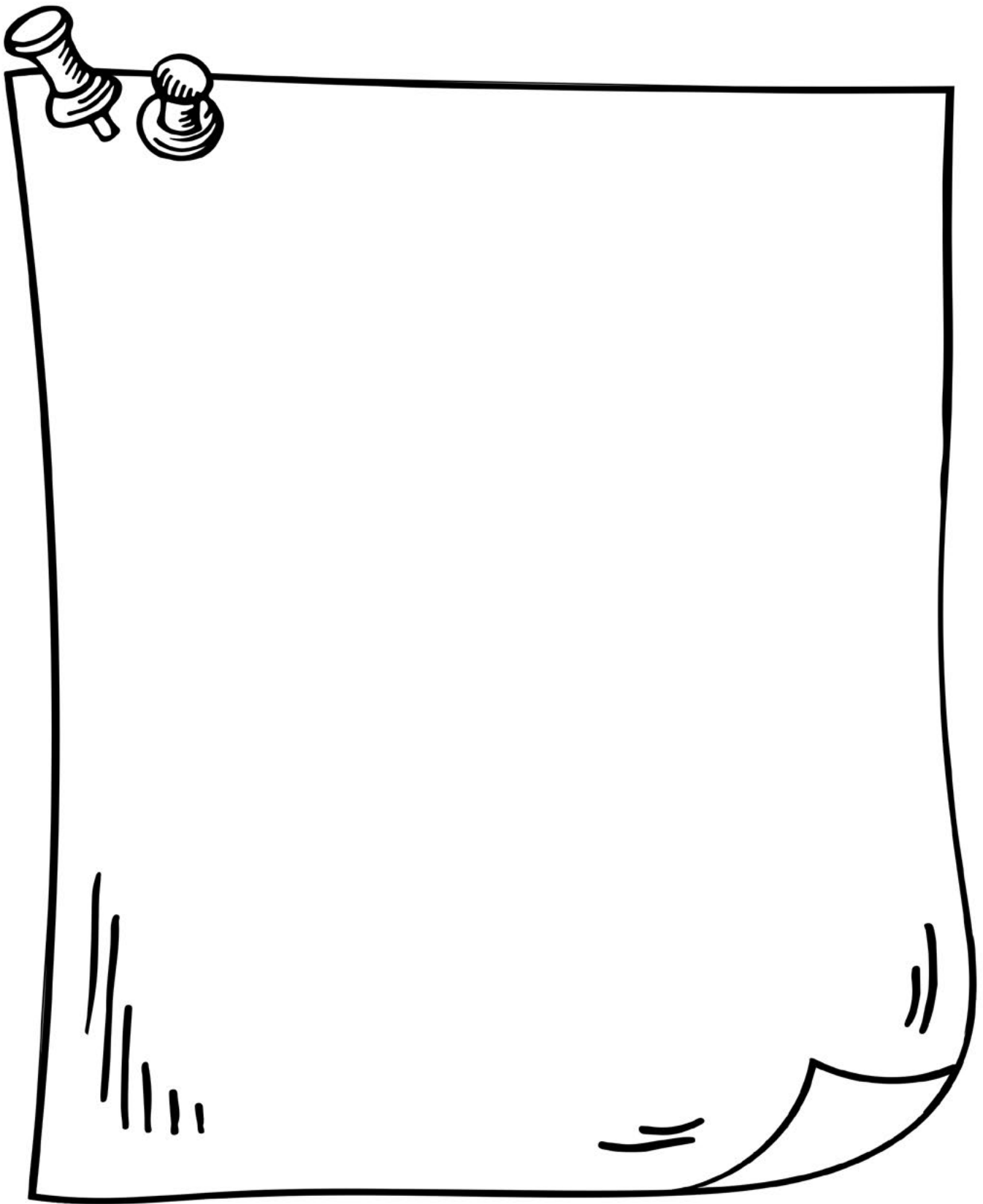
Now that Obed has healthy feet, he can run and play! What do you like to do for fun? Do you like to go on nature walks, play soccer, build with LEGOs, or play an instrument? **Draw a picture on the next page of one of your favorite activities!**

But first, why not take a few minutes to thank God for giving you the ability to do your favorite activities. Here is a sample prayer:

Dear Father,

Thank you for your love and for giving us activities and hobbies that bring us joy. Thank you for giving me the ability to (fill in your favorite activity). Please help all of the kids like Obed who can't run and play with their friends. Please provide medical help for these kids and protect them from mean kids who tease them. Please remind them how much you love them!

In Jesus' name, Amen.



CONCLUSION

We hope you learned what God has to say about the poor, and how you can help! For more exciting ways to get involved, visit www.BrightHope.org/Tribekids/ today!