

Civics: A Christian Worldview.
Causes of Poverty (15 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Prep

Print this page and a copy of Page 2 for each student.

Instructions

1. This activity helps students reason through, identify, and offer solutions to different causes of poverty.
2. Hand out Page 2 to students.
3. Give students about 10 minutes to complete the scenarios and bottom questions.
4. When time's up, discuss as a class. (Take turns calling on different students!)

Answer Key (Solutions to poverty answers will vary!)

1. LACK OF FREEDOM
2. OPPRESSION
3. LACK OF TECHNOLOGY
4. LACK OF CHARACTER
5. HARDSHIP
6. LACK OF TECHNOLOGY
7. HARDSHIP
8. LACK OF CHARACTER
9. HARDSHIP
10. LACK OF CHARACTER
11. OPPRESSION
12. LACK OF FREEDOM

Scripture Passages/Wrap-Up

- “Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man” (Proverbs 6:10-11).
Lazy individuals invite poverty by refusing to work.
- “For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags” (Proverbs 23:21).
Ditto for those who spend their days getting drunk and overeating, as well as being lazy.
- “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).
Jesus willingly, to save mankind from his sins, came to earth and became poor, for the purpose of making mankind “rich,” not materially, but with the grace of God.
- **KEY TAKEAWAY:** Not all poverty has the same cause—so wise help requires understanding the cause.

Civics: A Christian Worldview. Causes of Poverty

Decide which category each poverty-causing situation below belongs in, and then offer a practical solution to help with that poverty. Choose from among these causes:

Oppression • Family Hardship • Lack of Freedom • Lack of Technology • Character Fault

Government controls all employee wages.	A government official steals money from poor farmers.	People must walk miles to get water.	A person spends money on gambling instead of food.
Category:	Category:	Category:	Category:
Solution:	Solution:	Solution:	Solution:
A parent must stay home to care for a disabled child.	Farmers have no tractors or modern tools.	A father dies unexpectedly, leaving children without income.	A person quits every job quickly if the slightest thing goes wrong, in his view.
Category:	Category:	Category:	Category:
Solution:	Solution:	Solution:	Solution:
A widow has no job skills.	A person refuses job training.	Poor villagers must pay heavy bribes to work.	Government forbids people from selling goods freely.
Category:	Category:	Category:	Category:
Solution:	Solution:	Solution:	Solution:

Explain in your own words the main idea of each Scripture passage:

- “Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man” (Proverbs 6:10-11).

- “For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags” (Proverbs 23:21).

- “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).
