

Civics: A Christian Worldview.
Helping or Hurting the Poor/“Poor”? (25 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Prep

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

Instructions

1. This activity helps students see how giving money to panhandlers is counterproductive, and determine whether certain acts help or hurt the poor.
2. Watch the eight-minute short film “Freeloaders: Panhandling” here:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHoiVnID8vY>
3. (If that link doesn’t work, cut and paste the URL in your Internet browser.)
4. Ask students these questions:
 - “What are your general thoughts on this short film?” *AWV.*
 - “What are many panhandlers really like after they leave their spots?”
Able-bodied individuals who just don’t want to work.
 - “Why does giving to panhandlers not help, or make the issue worse?”
It perpetuates their doing it, and helps them avoid responsibility and work.
5. Hand out Page 2 to students.
6. Give students 8-10 minutes to complete the scenarios and bottom questions.
7. When time’s up, discuss as a class. (Take turns calling on all students!)
8. Ask the “Debrief Questions at the bottom of this page.

Answer Key

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. HELP | 6. HELP | 11. HURT |
| 2. HURT | 7. HURT | 12. CHRISTIAN |
| 3. CHRISTIAN | 8. CHRISTIAN | 13. HURT |
| 4. HURT | 9. HURT | 14. CHRISTIAN |
| 5. HURT | 10. CHRISTIAN | 15. HURT |

Debrief Questions

- Why do government programs often fail to end poverty?
There’s no incentive for them to do so, they’re playing with taxpayer money, so they’re less efficient, and if they did work, the employees would lose their jobs!
- According to the Bible, whose responsibility is it to help the poor?
Christians are to especially help other poor Christians, especially widows and orphans, and private charities should help the poor, not government programs—which are simply forms of plunder.
- What’s the difference between helping someone and creating dependence? *AWV.*

Civics: A Christian Worldview. Helping or Hurting the Poor/“Poor”?

Underneath each scenario below, write “HELP” (helps the poor), “HURT” (hurts the poor), or “CHRISTIAN” (a Christian responsibility/action).

1. A business owner hires inexperienced workers at low wages so they can gain skills.
2. The government raises minimum wage above what some beginner workers are worth.
3. A Christian gives food to an elderly widow who cannot work.
4. A government agency continues receiving funding even though its program doesn't reduce poverty.
5. A person refuses to help a needy neighbor but says, “I'll pray for you.”
6. A company lowers prices to attract more customers and stay competitive.
7. A young man refuses to work because he knows he can receive government assistance.
8. A Christian teaches a struggling person job skills.
9. Government taxes businesses heavily, leaving less money for hiring workers.
10. A Christian sets an example by working hard and providing for his family.
11. A government program continues for decades without solving the problem it was created to fix.
12. A Christian gives money to someone who truly cannot work due to disability.
13. A law prevents employers from hiring workers unless they meet expensive requirements.
14. A person recognizes that his talents and money ultimately come from God.
15. Christians ignore poor people in their own church community.

