

# contentious ISSUES

*A Biblical Perspective on Tough Topics*

## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 12 January 12, 2025

**“Income Inequality”**

### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we praise you for this day and for the strength you bless us with. We ask that you would reveal something new to us today. Remove the veils in our minds that could hinder us from seeing you today and make us one with you. Help us clear our minds, give us your mercy, and fill us with your grace. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### Matthew 25:41-46 (NIV)

<sup>41</sup> “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

<sup>44</sup> “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

<sup>45</sup> “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

<sup>46</sup> “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

#### Luke 12:15 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 January 12, 2025  
"Income Inequality"

## INTRODUCTION

Income inequality is the uneven distribution of income among individuals, groups, or populations. It's a major factor in social stratification and social class. In the United States, the income gap between the rich and everyone else has been growing markedly, by every major statistical measure, for more than 30 years. So what does Scripture say about this issue?

Solutions to income inequality vary and they are frequently debated. Although there are no simple solutions, scripture is clear that income inequality is exacerbated by what Jesus refers to as the deceitfulness of riches. And scripture is also clear that those with excess resources need to share with the poor. And as the richest nation on earth, the United States needs to be a light to the world with this problem.

## QUESTIONS

1. Do you prefer winter or summer?
2. According to the latest statistics, 10% of the population own 76% of the wealth in our world and 50% of the population owns only 2% of the wealth. Do you see this as a problem? Why or why not?
3. What do you believe is one thing that could be done to close the gap with income inequality around the world?
4. According to the United Nations, each day, 25,000 people, including more than 10,000 children, die from hunger and related causes. What are your thoughts on this?
5. Read Matthew 25:41-46 (on page 1). What stands out to you the most in this scripture passage?
6. Read Luke 12:15 (on page 1). What stands out to you about this passage?

## FINAL APPLICATION

What is one small step you can do this week to help someone in need?