



UE1: ANYTHING HELPS...?

BIBLE STUDIES

This guide provides three Bible study options for your group to use with Urban Entry's "Anything Helps...?". Each study is designed to be about an hour, including the opening conversation and the "Anything Helps...?" DVD session. Review the studies and questions ahead of time to decide what material is most appropriate for the purposes of your group.

If you want to have a more general discussion guide, one is available at www.urbanentry.org.

OPENING CONVERSATION (before watching the DVD):

- What Bible passages come to mind when you think about caring for the poor?
- In Matthew 5:42, Jesus says, "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." How do you understand this passage? Are there times when you do not give to someone who asks?

DVD – 15 MINUTES

STUDY 1: ELISHA, A WIDOW, AND JESUS

- Read 2 Kings 4:1-7
- Describe a time when you have been in a situation like one of the characters in this story.
- When the woman explains her need to Elisha, what is Elisha's response? What two questions does he ask? How do these questions relate to the video we just watched?
- Does Elisha meet her need? How? What other people are involved?
- Give examples from Jesus' life and teaching when...
 - He builds on or multiplies something that people already have
 - He meets needs supernaturally but uses something that is already there
 - He asks a question before He serves someone
- How do Elisha's two questions help preserve a person's dignity? How could you incorporate Elisha's questions (and Jesus' example) into your giving?

STUDY 2: HELPING THE POOR: A BIBLICAL OVERVIEW [In preparation for this study: download, print, and copy the "Helping the Poor" PDF found on the "Resources" page of urbanentry.org.]

- Take a few minutes to skim through the passages and make note of common themes or terms.
- What is your first response to these passages? What questions do you have?
- List some common terms or groups used to describe the "poor" in these passages.
- Do those terms still apply today? Are there other groups that you would include in this list today?
- According to these passages, what responses to these groups should characterize God's people?
- Give some examples from history or your experience when Christians have responded well to the poor. Give some examples when Christians have not responded well.
- Is there a poor group or person that God has put on your heart? Who? What can you do in response?

STUDY 3: MATTHEW 25

- When you sense your need for God, where do you go to connect with Him?
- Read Matthew 25:31-46
- In this passage, the King describes Himself in various situations.
 - Have you been in one of those situations? If you are willing, please share about that time.
 - Describe a time when you had the opportunity to care for someone in one of those situations. How did you respond? What is it like to think of that person as a King...as Jesus Christ?
- How did the two groups respond differently to the King (both "in disguise" and on His throne) in this story? What do these responses reveal about them and their hearts?
- Where might we find - and meet the needs of - Jesus today? Can you give some examples? What do we miss if we do not meet those needs?
- After reflecting on this passage, someone noted that we might reflect Jesus most and offer the greatest hope when we are in need. What do you think of that?
- What has God revealed about your heart today? Where is God calling you to serve Him?