

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Handout 6-A

## Bible Search: Option for the Poor

Please read the following passages from the Bible. Summarize them in the spaces below.

Sirach 4:1–10

Sirach 7:32

Amos 8:4–10

Luke 6:20

Acts 4:32–35

1 Timothy 6:17–19

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Handout 6-B

## Food and Justice

When one thinks of justice issues concerning food, one might first think of workers who harvest food, or maybe whether food is affordable, or possibly about the environmental impact that comes from eating a tomato harvested two thousand miles away rather than across town.

If you have lived in a lower-income area, however, you may be well aware that a significant justice issue in cities is the positioning of food stores. There are usually more stores in medium- and higher-income areas than there are in the lower-income neighborhoods where fewer residents own cars. Often, bus lines are not set up with the idea of helping people with limited transportation options to get to the grocery stores.

Sometimes, food stores in lower-income areas have higher prices, which means that people who are already using a greater percentage of their paycheck on food pay more than someone with a higher salary who has more disposable income. Convenience stores sell some grocery items (often at an even higher price), but not the kinds of fruits and vegetables needed for good nutrition.

This lack of access, whether based on geographic distance or lack of financial means, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods is called *food insecurity* by the United States Department of Agriculture. There is a link between some of the illnesses found in lower-income neighborhoods and the missing nutrition. And poor nutrition affects children's learning. According to Feeding America's "Child Hunger Facts" webpage,

Good nutrition, particularly in the first three years of life, is important for establishing a good foundation that has implications for a child's future physical and mental health, academic achievement, and economic productivity. Unfortunately, food insecurity is an obstacle that threatens that critical foundation. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 15.9 million children under 18 in the United States live in households where they are unable to consistently access enough nutritious food necessary for a healthy life. Although food insecurity is harmful to any individual, it can be particularly devastating among children due to their increased vulnerability and the potential for long-term consequences. (<http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-facts/child-hunger-facts.aspx>, accessed June 2014)

Even if an area has a bus route convenient to a grocery store, those who take the bus to the store have to make choices about what they purchase because it is difficult for an adult to carry a gallon of milk and a container of detergent, for example, in one trip. Another factor is that they may have a long walk to their home from the bus stop.

To learn about hunger in your state and area, see the "Map the Meal Gap" interactive map at <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>.

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Handout 6-C

## Country Hunger Report

Select a country from the southern hemisphere (except for Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa) or one from the northern hemisphere with your teacher's permission. Find out as much of the following information as you can:

1. Full name of country researched

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2. Capital city

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3. Major religions

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4. Overall population

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5. Agriculture or industry/exports

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6. Literacy rate

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7. Average number of years in school for boys and girls

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8. Infant mortality rate

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9. Projected life span for a citizen of this country

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Handout 6-C continued

10. Percentage of total population who is hungry

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11. Number of citizens who die annually from hunger or hunger-related illnesses

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Possible sources for this information:

- Background notes from the US Department of State: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/>
- Country studies from the US Library of Congress: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>
- Hunger statistics by country from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: <http://www.fao.org/hunger/en/>

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Handout 6-D

## Live for Others

*Please read the following excerpt from “Men for Others,” an address by Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Note that this handout expands a particular part of this excerpt about simple living while providing an overview of the piece of writing with some other sentences.*

Today our prime educational objective must be to form [persons]-for-others; [people] who will not live for themselves but for God and his Christ—for the God-man who lived and died for all the world; [people] who cannot even conceive of a love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors; [people] convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce (no. 2). . . .

How do we get this principle of justice through love down to the level of reality, the reality of our daily lives? We can cultivate three attitudes.

First, a firm determination to live much more simply—as individuals, as families, as social groups—and in this way to stop short, or at least to slow down, the expanding spiral of luxurious living and social competition. Let us have men and women who will resolutely set themselves against the tide of our consumer society. Men and women who, instead of feeling compelled to acquire everything that their friends have will do away with many of the luxuries which in their social set have become necessities, but which the majority of mankind must do without. And if this produces surplus income, well and good; let it be given to those for whom the necessities of life are still luxuries beyond their reach.

Second, a firm determination to draw no profit whatsoever from clearly unjust sources. . . .

Third, and most difficult: a firm resolve to be agents of change in society; not merely resisting unjust structures and arrangements, but actively undertaking to reform them (nos. 55–58).

### Questions

Answer the following questions based on this reading:

1. Who is a “person-for-others” according to Fr. Arrupe?
2. In your own words, what are the three strategies that can bring justice for the poor?
3. In light of the third paragraph (about living simply), what are some of the “luxuries which in [your] social set have become necessities”?
4. Do you, as the third paragraph suggests, feel as if you have to have all the things your friends have? Explain why if you answer yes or “somewhat yes” to the question. Alternatively, explain your “no” response. What contributes to consumerism?
5. What are some personal steps you can take to live more simply?

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Handout 6-E

## Blessed Mother Teresa Quotes

Read the following words of Bl. Mother Teresa regarding the Eucharist and how she saw Christ in the poor:

- Just as Jesus allows himself to be broken, to be given to us as food, we too must break, we must share with each other.
- The Mass is the spiritual food that sustains me—without which I could not get through one single day or hour in my life.
- Christ understood that we have a terrible hunger for God . . . that we have been created to be loved, and so he made himself a Bread of Life and he said, “Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you cannot live, you cannot love, you cannot serve.” . . . He also wants to give us the chance to put our love for him in living action. He makes himself the hungry one, not only for bread, but for love. He makes himself the naked one, not only for a piece of cloth but for that understanding love, that dignity, human dignity. He makes himself the homeless one, not only for the peace of a small room, but for that deep sincere love for the other. And this is the Eucharist. This is Jesus, the Living Bread that He has come to break with you and me.
- In the Mass we have Jesus in the appearance of bread, while in the slums we see Christ and touch him in the broken bodies, in the abandoned children.
- Every Holy Communion fills us with Jesus and we must, with Our Lady, go in haste to give him to others. He made himself the Bread of Life so that we, too, like Mary, become full of Jesus. We too, like her, must haste to give him to others. We too, like her, serve others.