

Additional Bible Study Suggestions

The goal of Bible study in connection with this globalization mission study is to understand the Bible's perspective and the experience of people during biblical times on matters like global community, wealth, greed, abundant life and treasure.

Participants should strive to ponder the meaning of an entire text. Look together at the situation in which the text arose by examining it in the context of surrounding chapters, rather than looking for single verses that support or challenge positions that we may wish to take.

A group may wish to take any of these texts and consider them in depth, making comparisons to their own reality and identifying themselves with different persons in the texts in a manner similar to that used with the Good Samaritan text in *Globalization and Its Impact on People*.

Mark 10: 17 -27

Economic globalization places great value on the accumulation of wealth. This passage challenges us to think about our own wealth and how much we are prepared to give up for the sake of others and for the sake of our own souls. It tells of a rich young man who wanted to know how to gain eternal life and was given the suggestion to sell all that he had and follow Jesus. Will we as individuals and as a society be able to pass through the eye of the needle? (see p. 36 in *The Big G* for discussion suggestions).

Luke 12: 15 – 21

The consumerism preached by economic globalization often makes it difficult for individuals to distinguish between necessity and greed. This passage is on the subject of greed, warning the believer to guard against it and questioning the value of the abundance of possessions. What do we need to store up? What is meant in Galatians 5:22 by "fruit of the spirit" (see p.36 in *The Big G* for discussion suggestions)?

John 10: 10 b

In this familiar passage Jesus declares that he came that all might have abundant life. In thinking about a vision for a just world, how do we understand this promise about abundant life? What responsibility do we have for helping to make it happen (see pp. 40-41 in *The Big G* for discussion suggestions)?

Isaiah 65: 17 – 28

Discovering the way forward in the context of globalization requires that we build a vision of the world we would like to see. Isaiah's picture of God's new creation might be a model that we could use to consider the elements of our own vision for a new creation (see pp. 40-41 in *The Big G* for discussion suggestions).

Ezekiel 27, 28, and 31: 2 -24 and Isaiah 23

In the ancient world, the city of Tyre built a great reputation for trade. It is useful to study both the successes of Tyre and its ultimate fate because of unfair trading practices. We may be able to see parallels to present day free market trade policies (suggested by David Wildman, Executive Secretary, Human Rights and Racial Justice, General Board Global Ministries, United Methodist Church. For further exposition on these passages contact d.wildman@gbgm-umc.org).

Acts: 2: 42 - 47

The practices of the early church --holding everything in common, sharing together, prayer and the rewarding prosperity of their ministry-- give us a food for thought about our own vision of a global community. How would we share and hold everything in common?

Exodus 1

In this passage people in biblical times were living a reality that mirrors our own. The Egyptians were afraid of the Jewish immigrants in their midst because they were so numerous. Even though they held the power in society, the Egyptians feared that the aliens posed a threat. This passage helps us to see how race and ethnicity play a role in the context of globalization- generated immigration and migration. How familiar does this story sound? Are the solutions of U.S. policy any better than those of the Egyptians (see *Racial Justice Resources* for discussion questions on this passage at www.newgbgm-umc.org/umw)?

Matthew 20: 1 - 6

This passage deals with the presence of persons entering the community at different times, in this case laborers. It can help us to explore our own attitudes and identities where communities are in the midst of change.

2 Corinthians 8: 8 -14.

This passage helps us to look at the issues of wealth and fairness. Paul challenges the early church at Corinth to consider its abundance and the needs of others, reminding Corinthian Christians that Jesus was rich but made himself poor.