

the Bible Study Series of Church Land Programme
Study 1: LAND DISPOSSESSION



Approximate duration:
2.5 hours

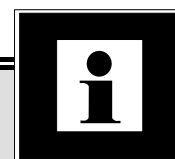


Key text:
1 Kings 21:1-19



What you will need:

Pens, paper, a Bible, large newsprint paper (or a chalk board and chalk), a flip chart pen (koki), masking tape (or prestick, or drawing pins).

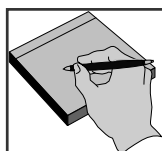


Important Information for the Facilitator

This Bible study is one of a series which has been compiled by the Church Land Programme (CLP). It is for people who want to understand how the Bible views the land, and those connected to the land. It comprises relevant Bible study materials, liturgies and prayers which aim at assisting local church leaders and congregations to reflect on the themes of people's land rights and creation as a partnership with God.

It is very important that you start by reading the 'Introductory Notes' at the beginning of the CLP Bible Study Series, so that you understand the background to this study.

This study may be done in English or in isiZulu – this is up to you as the facilitator.



What to prepare beforehand:

- Read through the whole study.
- Read through the Key Text, and be sure you have an understanding of what the story is about.
- Gather the things you will need for the study (see the list above).
- Read through questions 1 – 6, and reflect on what you think your responses may be to them.
- Decide which set of questions 7 – 10 you will use for this particular group of

participants.

- Read through questions 7 – 10, and reflect on what you think your responses may be to them.
- Write questions 1 – 6 on a large piece of newsprint. Write big and clearly.
- Write questions 7 – 10 (the set you have chosen) on a large piece of newsprint. Write big and clearly.

Step 1.

You may wish to start the Bible study by welcoming everyone, and opening with prayer.



Step 2.

(Timecheck: 10 minutes)

Read the Bible verses aloud. It is best if this is done by someone else in the group who has a strong, loud voice. If participants have their own Bibles with them, they may choose to follow the reading in their own Bibles.



A Good Idea

A group of young people from your church group or community could prepare a drama based on this Bible story. The drama would serve to 'break the ice' and to give a local flavour to the story.

Step 3.

(Timecheck: 20 minutes.)

Ask everyone present the following question: *What is this story about?*

This question should be discussed by the participants as a whole group.

Write down the responses offered by participants on a piece of newsprint, so that everyone can see these.

Step 4.

Divide the participants up into small groups. Ideally, there should be about four to six people in each group. Each group should have a piece of paper, and a pen or pencil. Stick up the sheet with the Questions 1 - 6. Each group should be able to see it easily.



Step 5.

(Timecheck: 30 minutes)

These small groups should then discuss the questions, and write down some answers:

1. *Who are the characters and what do we know about them?*
2. *Why does King Ahab want Naboth's vineyard?*
3. *Why does Naboth want to keep his vineyard?*
4. *What strategies are used to take Naboth's vineyard from him?*
5. *What does the Lord think about King Ahab's actions?*
6. *What role do race, class and ethnicity play in this story?*

Step 6.

(Timecheck: 20 minutes)

The small groups should then each report to everyone on their discussion and answers. To save time, the groups should take turns in reporting on different questions.



A Good Idea

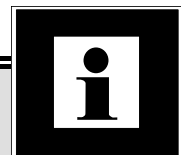
Remember that a 'discussion' means that every person in the group should have a chance to participate. Watch how the participants in the small groups interact with each other. If it looks like any one person is being left out of the discussion, encourage the other group participants to be quiet for a moment and listen to his/her contribution.



Step 7.

(Timecheck: 30 minutes)

After the reports the participants should return to their small groups. Stick up the sheet with the Questions 7 – 9 below. Each group should be able to see it easily. The small groups should then discuss together and answer the questions. They should write down their plan of action (see Question 10).



Important Information for the Facilitator

Questions 1 – 6 draw attention to the text from the Bible. By contrast, Questions 7 – 10 apply what is learnt from the text to the real life experiences of the participants and their community. You will need to be creative and flexible here because questions which are specific to your community may be asked by the participants.

You will need to decide beforehand which set of questions to use:

If the participants come from a community that has lost its land, then they should

answer the following questions.

7. *Why and how have people in your community lost their land?*
8. *Why is this land your land?*
9. *What strategies are there to regain your land?*
10. *What will be your plan of action?*

OR

If the community is already on land they consider to be theirs but where their tenure is being threatened, then the following questions would be more appropriate:

7. *Why is this land your land?*
8. *What strategies are being used to take away your land?*
9. *What resources are there for you to retain your land?*
10. *What will be your plan of action?*

Step 8.

(Timecheck: 30 – 40 minutes)

Again, at the end of the discussion time, each small group should report back to the big group. Each small group should present their plan of action to the larger group.



Step 9.

Bring the Bible study to a close. You may wish to do this by leading all the participants in a prayer for justice regarding their land, and a request for help from God to wisely implement the plans of action.