

the Bible Study Series of Church Land Programme
Study 3: FOOD SECURITY



Approximate duration:
2.5 hours

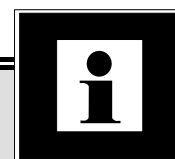


Key text:
Matthew 6: 9 – 13



What you will need:

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

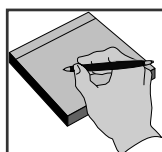


Important Information for the Facilitator

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 it is about.
- Gather the things you will need for the study (see the list above).
- Read through all the questions below, and reflect on what you think your responses may be to them.
- Write questions 1 – 4 on a large piece of newsprint. Write big and clearly.

- Write questions 5 – 9 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: 5 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.

Step 3.

(Timecheck: 20 minutes)

Ask everyone present the following question: *What is this text 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.



A Good Idea

Often we are so familiar with 'The Lord's Prayer', that we fail to see and understand what it is *really* saying. To help the participants think deeply about the text and how it applies to their lives, get everyone to sit quietly for a short while, and imagine that they have never heard this prayer before. They should pretend it is completely new to them, and try to see it with 'new eyes'.

Step 4.

Get the participants to divide themselves up into small groups. Ideally, there should be about four to six people in each group. Each group should have a piece of paper, a Bible and a pen or pencil.

Stick up the sheet with the Questions 1 - 4. 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. Where will God's kingdom come?
2. How do verses 11 and 12 describe the kingdom of God?

3. *Why is Jesus so concerned about "bread for today"?*
4. *Why is Jesus so concerned about "debt"?*

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.



Step 7.

(Timecheck: 30 minutes)

After the reports the participants should return to their small groups. Stick up the sheet with the Questions 5 – 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 list.

5. *Who in your context needs "bread for today"? Why?*
6. *Who in your context needs release from "debt"? Why?*
7. *What would the kingdom of God be like for these people?*
8. *What "temptations" and what "evil" will prevent us from establishing God's kingdom on earth?*
9. *What will you do to ensure that God's kingdom will come on earth? Write a list or plan of action of what you will do.*

**What does
this mean**



FOOD SECURITY

The reliable and daily availability of food necessary to appease hunger. A certainty that there will be enough food.

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 list or plan of action to the larger group.



Step 9.

Bring the Bible study to a close. Now that everyone has a new understanding of food security, you may wish to close by leading all in The Lord's Prayer, and asking God to help the participants as they bring His kingdom on earth.