

**Poor People's Campaign
Disciples Liturgical Tool Kit
Theme for Week 5:**

**Everybody's Got the Right To Live: Education, Living Wages, Jobs,
Income, Housing**

A group of Disciples are working together to provide liturgical resources for our congregations during the six Sundays during the 40-Days of action. Here are some materials for Week 5 (June 10-16) of the *Poor People's Campaign* which will focus on **Everybody's Got the Right To Live: Education, Living Wages, Jobs, Income, Housing** so please look for opportunities to address these themes in your worship on Sunday and public witness on Monday. With the prophetic leadership of Rev. Terri Hord Owens and Rev. Dr. William Barber II, God has raised up a holy remnant of Disciples of Christ who are willing to stand in the gap and be repairers of the breach, uniting people across the lines of deep difference to restore harmony to the community.

**Year B, 1 Samuel 3:1-10, Deuteronomy 5:12-15, 2 Corinthians 4:5-12, Mark
2:23-3:6**

Third Sunday after Pentecost

**1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15); Psalm 138; Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130;
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35**

Green

(For those using liturgical colors, we're in green from now until Advent 1)

Call to Worship based on Samuel:

One: The world called for a human ruler. We trusted more in our own understanding than the benevolence and grace of God.

Many: May we turn back now and choose the love of God

One: The world called for human profit. We put profit margins over caring for people's needs

Many: May we turn back now and choose to care for God's children.

One: The world called for human gain and we sacrificed the wellbeing of those in poverty.

Many: May we turn back now and choose to love our neighbor as ourselves, and in doing so, may we love the God, in whose image we are all made.

Prayer response to the Samuel Reading:

Gracious God, we know that you give us autonomy to choose. Sometimes we choose the paths that brings us closer to love, compassion, peace, and You. Sometimes we choose the paths that lead us to abuse and mistreatment of each other and our planet, these paths take us away from you. May we be restored in our relationship with one another and restored in our relationship with you. May our worship be blessed by your presence and may we be transformed by you, that we may transform the moral narrative of our world! We ask this prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer response to Mark Reading:

Healing Christ, we know that we have been divided for far too long. We have set ourselves against one another and neglected the healing mercy of your grace. May our divided houses crumble, and on the bedrock of your justice, may we build a new community of love and kindness, showing Shalom to all who we meet. We are grateful that you heal us, O God, and that when we heal one another, we become sisters and brothers and mothers – part of the family of Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

SERMON FODDER:

1 Samuel 3:1-10

This text is perfectly aligned with the Poor People's Campaign them for week 5. Preachers have a variety of ways to go.

This text speaks of how the king will subjugate everything. God said: You don't want this---You don't want or need a King. God gives specific warnings of what will happen if they trust and follow a King. These warnings were understandable by all who would listen but God's warnings were rejected.

With the theme for this coming week: God warns the "King" will take everything –your wages, your jobs, your income, your housing., your heirs, your sons and daughters. These actions will lead to a loss of wages, income, housing, jobs.

Vs. 17 & 18: Taking slaves, cattle and donkeys and you will become like those who you consider to be slaves. Similar to “first they came for....and then they came for....and then they came for me.”

Genesis 3:8-15

As in 1 Samuel God has forewarned that there are consequences for our actions. Those consequences are dire. The humans are blaming God, each other and the serpent instead of taking responsibility for our actions.

This fits the theme for this week in our complicity in the lack of fair wages, lack of jobs, lack of affordable housing for all of God’s children. Too often we say “there isn’t anything we can do” instead of examining our role and actions in creating the lack of fair wages, lack of jobs and lack of affordable housing.

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

This text from 2 Corinthians offers us hope “So we do not lose heart.”

We keep reading and seeing a “distorted moral narrative” in the news and in our world. Paul reminds that what we see is not what you get. There is something else at work that is eternal. We need to narrate around the reign of God not the reign of humans.

This text undergirds those who have chosen not to be part of the majority like the majority who demanded a King in 1 Samuel. They are having their nature renewed every day which is what we are looking for in our country. We look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen: This resonates with the goals the Poor People’s Campaign has. We are looking for the beloved kingdom (moral revival) here on Earth not for a quick fix. We want life for all not just existence.

The Moral Revival vs. the Distorted Moral Narrative: The Spirit is renewing us for the years ahead. Signs of the time may look bizarre and distorted but God is renewing God’s people for this long haul struggle.

This Moral Revival is bringing about unity among those who are participating in the Campaign. This is important because this is a multi-year, on going Campaign. The

Spiritual connections being made among the participants are vitally important and will support efforts as we go forward.

Mark 3:20-35

Jesus is saying: Don't say I'm possessed----instead you better check yourself. There is a sin above all sins blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. If you don't see who I am through the Holy Spirit then you are guilty.

Abraham Lincoln used this during the Civil War: a house divided falls. If we can't get along this country will be destroyed. Right now it appears that only one side is right and if you are different in any way then you are wrong.

In this Campaign some of us have gotten support from family and friends who may not agree with what we are doing but will put that aside to be in solidarity with us. So that the house is not divided. For some "family" may be the friends they have made in the Campaign: "Here are my mother and my brother."

Questions to ponder: What does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit today? What does it mean to bind the strong man?