

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES:** Exodus 1:8-14; 20:17; Deuteronomy 24:14-15; Amos 5:6-15; Zechariah 8:16-17; Matthew 20:1-16; Mark 12:1-9; Luke 3:14; Ephesians 6:1-9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

**PRINT PASSAGES:** Deuteronomy 24:14-22; Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19



## L12 Cultivating Generosity

### REFLECT

Jacqueline is a sophomore and attends James Madison High School in Dallas, Texas. She has always had a heart to give to her friends and family. As a little girl, she would often give away her toys. She would ask her mother to buy someone she knew a pair of shoes, even if it meant she couldn't get a new pair for herself.

Her mother credits her with having a genuine characteristic of giving, because she, too would give to others in need. Her mother was a registered nurse specializing in neonatal care. You could always find her cooking a pot of red beans and baking cornbread. She did this almost every day to have on hand to feed anyone who came to her door hungry.

Summer is usually the time to have fun, but Jacqueline was already planning to have back-to-school clothes drive in July 2026. She was a member of a community youth group, and this is what she led them to do. They had already been contacting buyers and store managers from their local shopping mall to obtain new clothes.

It was with persistence that she encountered a manager in one of the stores who was helped by her community when she was Jacqueline's age. Her generosity was cultivated years ago at a young age. She immediately called many of the other store managers to get them on board with donating to the back-to-school giveaway. Jacqueline was thrilled.

Her family and community were proud of her. Her efforts would help many families who had recently settled in her neighborhood, including those from the Democratic Republic of Congo, with the help of the United Nations. Many had come to America in 2023 but were forced to relocate to Dallas due to the wildfires in California the previous year.

They lost everything that they owned were starting over. Jacqueline's efforts and generosity would be the saving grace for many of these families with several school-aged children.



**When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. (Deuteronomy 24:19)**



# INSPECT

**Deuteronomy 24:14-22; Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19**

**14** Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns. **15** Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the Lord against you, and you will be guilty of sin. **16** Parents are not to be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their parents; each will die for their own sin. **17** Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. **18** Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this. **19** When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. **20** When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. **21** When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. **22** Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

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**5** Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. **6** Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. **7** Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, **8** because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. **9** And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

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**17** Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly

provides us with everything for our enjoyment. **18** Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. **19** In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

# INTERSECT

**T**RADITION REPORTS MOSES WROTE THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY. In this chapter regarding the treatment of hired workers, he addressed how employers were to pay them promptly before night each day. The people were supposed to care for those who were most vulnerable, such as the poor and the needy among them. The law was clear that each person was solely responsible for their own behavior. During the harvest season, the Lord cautions the people to leave food for foreigners and those in need, especially if it was not harvested the first time. This would bless the harvester as well as the poor people.

Paul is believed to have written the Epistle to the Ephesians. He provides detailed instructions to the people regarding the conduct and interactions regarding slaves and masters. Both slaves and masters were to interact with each other as if they were interacting with Christ. Both were to honor and respect each other in their own respective roles. *(Please note that this Scripture passage has been used to oppress and justify the enslavement of African Americans. Enslavement and oppression are contrary to God's plan for all humans.)*

Paul gives the young preacher Timothy advice on how to lead rich people through challenges that they will face. The rich were told not to be arrogant nor to place their hope in their wealth but in God, who provides everything..



**Respond to the questions below in your journals.**

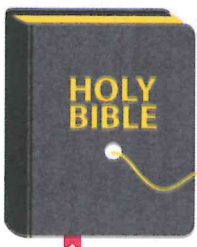
1. Deuteronomy 24:14 says, "Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor or needy." Who were the hired workers? When were the poor's wages due?
2. In Ephesians 6:5-9, why should one serve wholeheartedly "as if serving the Lord, not people"?
3. In 1 Timothy 6:17-19, what were the two commands for the rich?



## THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

It is important to understand that God expects us to honor Him by being good stewards and working in our communities. It does not matter whether we are doing chores at home or working a part-time job. In Ephesians 6:5-9, it encourages righteous behavior from both slaves and their masters. Both must honor God in their individual roles. The question today is “are you honoring God while helping out at home or working for pay?”

Write a prayer asking God to give you wisdom to always honor him in your home and at work.



## CONNECT

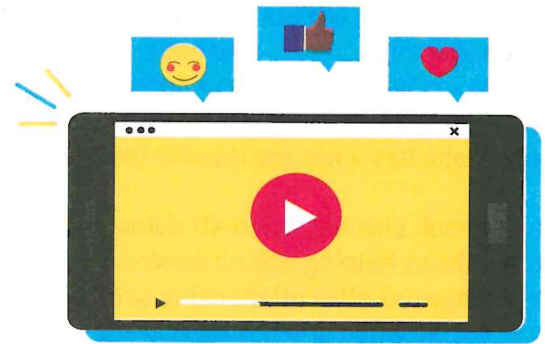
Deuteronomy 24:19 teaches us that during the harvesting of grain, if a sheaf, which is a bundle of grain, was forgotten to leave it. In our community today, there are many people who face immediate challenges due to being hungry, unhoused, and sick. We should check our pantries, start a food drive, and organize medical screenings in our community to support the underprivileged.

The purpose of this principle to leave food or grain behind for the poor, orphans, widows, and foreigner was God's way of feeding them. Christians, both then and now, would be blessed by God for helping disenfranchised people.



## STEPPING OUT!

Watch this at <https://youtu.be/-W1FRkygnZU> and then discuss how we can protect the vulnerable people such as orphans, widows, strangers, or foreigners. What can Christians do in the churches and communities to assist this population of people? Also, how can we, as a society, protect workers who may be exploited by their employers? What can we do if these types of situations happen to people in your congregations? Develop an action plan to address this issue.



## MEDIA MISSION

View the video at <https://youtu.be/LA0JEot7LMg>, then find a song, video, or image that relates to the lesson. As time permits, you will be invited to share your song, video, or image with the class.

