CHRISTIAN FAITH AND SOCIETY
SYLLABUS

Overview

This course is designed to deal with justice issues in today's world from the perspective of biblical faith. Because of the preeminence of current concerns about local, national, and global economics, we will focus primarily on the biblical teachings regarding Sabbath Economics, also known as Jubilee Spirituality. We will consider God's challenge to all God's people as we face today's economic crisis.

Objectives

Participants will sharpen their social analysis skills, making use of worksheets listed here.

Participants will explore relationships between biblical theology and economy with relevant worksheets.

Participants will clarify their response to today's economic crisis and biblical teaching with additional worksheets.

Introduction:

Theology and Economy
Why People are Poor
Biblical Hermeneutics of Liberation

TODAY'S WORLD

500 Years of Oppression, Patriarchy, and Racism
Accelerating Polarization between Rich and Poor
Banking on Misery
Sabbath Economics and Market Economics
Fair Trade is unfair trade—The Philippines

BIBLICAL FAITH

The Exodus and the Logic of Liberation
Nehemiah and the Debt System
Jesus' Jubilee Prayer
Jesus and Empire
God and Mammon
Pentecost and Jubilee

RESPONSIBLE DISCIPLESHIP

Letter from Accra
Bread for the World—Alliance to End Hunger
Jubilee and Human Rights
Empire or Earth Community
The Great Work for this Generation

Assignments

1. Participants will receive one-page handouts on the above issues for personal reflection, discussion in class, and possible use with study groups in their congregations.

2. Participants will gather from periodicals, journals, and other resources and bring to class information and questions related to the above issues.

3. Participants will prepare and lead a discussion on at least one of the issues presented in this course—for a youth group, adult education classes, or other setting.

4. Participants will prepare a final paper (3 to 5 pages) that will attempt to summarize their critical appraisal of at least one of the issues considered in this course and their recommendations to their congregations for study and action.

Additional Recommended Reading


