

**PRAY**

God of love, enlighten those who are in possession of power and wealth so that they beware of the sin of indifference, love common good, support the weak and take care of this world we live in. The poor and the earth are begging, Lord, seize us by your power and your light in order to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, so that your kingdom come, the kingdom of justice, of peace, of love and of beauty. Praise be to you. Amen. (Pope Francis)

**CONTEMPLATE**

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.
Short silence.

Exchange: *What particularly appealed to you?*

**STUDY**

1. Read DOCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).

**DISCUSS**

Also discuss your own questions on this topic!

Treasure Book: *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*

**CHALLENGE**

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.

#DOCATChallenge: Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.

**Am 5:12-14**

Oppressing the just, accepting bribes, repelling the needy at the gate!
Seek good and not evil, that you may live; Then truly will the LORD, the God of hosts, be with you as you claim!

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What should I do about other people's poverty?

Because God loves every individual human being "unto death on the cross", Christians look at their fellow man in a new light. Even in the poorest of the poor they recognize Christ, their Lord. Christians are therefore deeply motivated to do everything possible to alleviate the suffering of others. In doing so they take as their guide the →Works of Mercy. One can help person-to-person. But it is also possible, through donations, to indirectly help poor people to survive and to live in dignity. Much more important, however, is assistance that enables the poor person to free himself from his poverty (for example, by finding him a job or by giving him a better education). In doing so, no one should feel overburdened, but no one should feel too easily exempt. Businessmen make an important contribution toward the fight against poverty by creating jobs and humane working conditions.

1. We should see the "Christ" in poor (maybe repugnant) people. Have you tried that before? In the supermarket line? Under a bridge? In the middle of a big city crowd?
2. How do you deal with beggars and other "annoying" or even "molesting" people in a sensible (!) and useful way?
3. There are different forms of poverty: material, emotional and spiritual poverty. Does any example spring to your mind?
4. Are there any food pantries or soup kitchens in your place where surplus food from trade and gastronomy is distributed to the poor? Could you become involved there?

Take a look at the Works of Mercy (Docat page 164). Which works of mercy have you already fulfilled, and which ones are on your to-do list? Choose one of the works of mercy and put it into practice.

Do you take on this challenge?

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