

## **WEEK 3 REFLECTION**

### *The poor in the United States – Jim’s story*

#### Leviticus 23:22

22 When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am the Lord your God.

#### **Pr. Matt’s study & writing helps:**

1. Read Leviticus 23, verse 3 & verses 9-21 (the part right before the one printed above) to see what’s going on here. This is about the Sabbath (the day of rest) and sacrificing things to God. Why do you think God asks that they give some of what they work hard for back to God? Why do you think God asks them not to harvest every bit of their field? He is asking them to leave some of the harvest out in the field so the poor can come and eat it. They could harvest it all and make more money. Why would God ask them to do this?

2. Look at the study notes at the bottom of the page in your Study Bible to see if you can learn anything else interesting about this passage. Make sure you know what the word “alien” means here!

3. Read Jim’s story (*“Story3 US.pdf”, available on the church’s website*). You can also go to [www.elca.org/hunger/video](http://www.elca.org/hunger/video) to see Jim’s story. Consider WHY God asks us to care for those in need. Do we do it to prove we are good people? Do we do it to earn a place in heaven? Is there something deeper going on here?

4. For your reflection, write 2-3 paragraphs about what you think this passage means for the modern church of 2012. Be careful not to make your paragraphs too much about what we “should” do, but focus on WHY we would help those in need (see Question #3 above).

#### **OTHER IDEAS FOR YOUR PARAGRAPHS:**

1. You could name the places in our modern world where you see need.
2. You could tell about a time you helped someone and how that felt
3. You could tell about a time you saw someone in need and how that felt
4. You could tell about a time when you or someone you know was in need
5. You could talk about what you want to do when you grow up and how that might meet the needs of others
6. You could talk with your family about one thing you could do to respond to this passage. (*Hint: It isn’t always about money! Is there anything else you could do live in a way that reflects the values in this passage?*)

You can contact me by e-mail, Facebook, or phone for help with this!

5. E-mail me ([pr\\_matt@hotmail.com](mailto:pr_matt@hotmail.com)) or send me a Facebook message with a draft of your paragraphs one week before your assigned Wednesday. That way, I can help you edit it and get it ready to read in church.

*Don’t forget – you are not on your own here – I believe that you have something important to share & I am here to help you find the right words!*