

Small Group Questions

Drawn from, "Care for Those in Need" A sermon on Deuteronomy 23:19-20, 23:24-25, 24:6, 24:10-15, 24:19-22

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Pres Tacoma

October 11, 2026

1. Today's sermon text was largely about loans. Talk about the worst experience you've ever had borrowing or loaning money.
2. Look again at 24:6 and 24:10-13 and talk about pledges and collateral. What is the logic behind the practices mandated here? Given the cultural distance between ourselves and ancient Israel, how should the principles behind these ancient practices be applied today? In your answer, be as specific, concrete, and personal as possible.
3. Look again at verses 19-22 and talk about the logic behind leaving a portion of the harvest for others. Given that we are no longer an agrarian society, how should the principles behind this ancient practice be applied today? In your answer, be as specific, concrete, and personal as possible.
4. Look again at these various passages and count up the various motivations given for helping the poor. Which of these surprises, encourages, or confuses you the most? Explain your answer.
5. You are talking with a banker who has very recently been converted to Christ. He reads today's passages and begins to have serious doubts about the entire enterprise of banking because it is so universally founded on the practice of charging interest. He asks for your advice. What do you say? In your answer, talk specifically about the following kinds of loans and the interest associated with them: payday loans, credit cards, personal loans, mortgages, and business loans.

6. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti claimed, “In many societies, the wealthy tend to accumulate more and more, while the poor seem to end up with less and less over time.” Do you agree with this claim? Why or why not? Back up your answer with examples and data.
7. Talk about a time in your life when you were in significant need and someone helped you in a way that was effective, that preserved your dignity, and that brought honor to the Lord. Contrast with a time when you were in significant need and someone “helped” in a way that was ineffective, embarrassing or dismissive, or failed to honor the Lord.
8. Talk about a time when you helped, or at least tried to help, someone in significant financial need. What challenges did you face as the helper? What was effective? What would you do differently in retrospect?
9. You are driving around town in your car, stopped at a red light, and a homeless person is standing next to you with a sign asking for money. What should you do? What is your duty to this impoverished neighbor? Explain your answer.
10. Give both a positive and a negative example of a church, a ministry, a non-profit, an organization, or a government that does charity work. Compare and contrast the two examples, talking about what makes charity effective, dignified, and God-honoring in the one case but not in the other case.
11. Who is someone in your life who is trapped in poverty or on the brink of it? What could you and/or this small group do to help this person?