

# Redemptive Poverty Work Syllabus

# **Description**

Maintaining the right perspective and disposition in serving the broken and needy is critical to a Kingdom-focused, Christ-centered approach to poverty work. *Redemptive Poverty Work* aims to help you do the type of work among the poor that honors God and helps you fulfill your desire to make the world a better place. Through this course you will find a fresh and revolutionary way to engage and interact with those who live in underserved communities, here in the United States and around the world.

Our first lesson, *A Brief Theological Reflection*, provides a simple practical theology for poverty work. We'll talk about three themes that undergird why we do what we do.

Lesson two, *Toxic Poverty Work*, outlines the type of poverty work that naturally arises from our sinful nature. We'll talk about what our work will produce if we do not practice self-awareness.

Lesson three, *Redemptive Poverty Work*, defines the goal of our activity. We'll explore the three types of poverty work available to us and how our response to the work that Christ has done on the cross should inspire us towards redemption of lives and neighborhoods.

Lesson four, *Rhythms of Life and Poverty Work*, lays out the spirituality of the Great Tradition of the Church. World Impact invites you to implement these practices in your life to act as a countermeasure to toxic poverty work, as well as a catalyst to grow in your faith.

# **Objectives**

After completing *Redemptive Poverty Work*, you will have the tools to:

- Articulate a brief biblical theology for poverty work
- Analyze poverty work for toxic practices and attitudes
- Reflect critically on poverty work to align it with God's redemptive work in Christ
- Enact a commitment to root poverty work in effective spiritual practices that represent the Great Tradition of the Church

# **Required Books**

- Bible (for the purposes of this course, your Bible should be a translation [ex. NIV, NASB, RSV, KJV, NKJV, etc.], and not a paraphrase [ex. The Living Bible, The Message]).
- Sanders, Alvin. Redemptive Poverty Work. TUMI Press, 2021.
- Sanders, Alvin. *Uncommon Church*. IVP, 2020.

# **Course Requirements**

The course is set up to build knowledge together. Therefore, it is crucial to have all assignments complete prior to our face-to-face dialogue times. Attendance for face-to-face dialogue times is mandatory. They will be recorded for review, if needed. Come into the dialogue times with questions, concerns, and comments concerning the readings and content you have completed before each lesson. The certification process is pass/fail with the following requirements to pass:

- 1. You have turned in all lesson assignments by due date, which is prior to weekly face-to-face dialogues.
- 2. You have participated in the weekly face-to-face dialogues.
- 3. You have scored a 70% or higher on the lesson quizzes and the final exam.

You can retake quizzes and final exam as many times as necessary to achieve the 70% certification mark.

# **Memory Verses**

## Lesson 1: Matthew 25.45

Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' (ESV)

### Lesson 2: Luke 4.18-19

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, [19] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (ESV)

# Lesson 3: John 1.14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

#### Lesson 4: Acts 2.42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (ESV)