



Pilgrimage Through the Pandemic Reflection Guide

Session 4 – COVID-19 and Local Responses in Food, Housing, and Small Business

Prepare

Read: Matthew 25:34-40: “Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”

Pray: God of *Shalom*, your world is filled with abundance. You have created all things good and full of the capacity for fruitfulness. But we do not trust the sufficiency of your provision, and our greed leads us to hold our possessions tightly. We store up treasures for ourselves when others have nothing. Our bank accounts grow as the bank accounts of others are depleted. We hoard food and supplies, leaving shelves empty for others. Turn our hearts to have faith in you. Turn our hands to give freely. And open our mouths so that we can address the systems of injustice that protect some and disadvantage others. As COVID-19 increases disparities, may our response increase, because just as we care for those who are called “the least,” we are caring for you. Amen.

Listen

Watch: Watch the *COVID-19 and Local Responses in Food, Housing and Small Business* panel at www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage. Speakers:

- Georie Bryant - DurhamCares, Symbolized Consulting, Communities in Partnership
- Drew Doll - Religious Coalition for Nonviolent Durham
- Russell Pierce - Housing for New Hope
- Amber Harper - AmberLynn Beauty
- Ashley Harper - Harper's Parlour



Reflect

Take some time on your own, or with your small group, to reflect on the following questions through discussion, contemplation, journaling, or artwork.

1. Georie Bryant discussed the way in which the food system in the U.S. was built on slavery and greed, and has always been broken. COVID-19 has exposed the cracks in the system. How is this like the way Pharaoh used Israel for economic profit? And how does God's different way in Deuteronomy 8:10-14 show us a different way: "When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."
2. In the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, when the man who fell among robbers was in need, the Samaritan cared for him with a holistic approach – he cleaned his wounds (medical), he brought him to the inn (housing), and he gave extra money to the innkeeper (financial help). Russell Pierce shared about how housing needs to be addressed from a holistic approach. What are some ways we can apply the Samaritan's model of being a neighbor to our housing crisis?
3. Ashley Harper shares about how closing her business because of the pandemic has meant an unexpected opportunity for rest. Sabbath is foundational to God's character and his calling for our lives, but we often don't make the time for it. In what ways is the pandemic giving you opportunities to rest? Or are you seeing others rest as your work is intensified? How can we live to make sure that rest is something that everyone can have?
4. Drew Doll shared about how the challenge of re-entry is exacerbated when there are few jobs and public health officials advise us to socially distance. But the challenges prisoners face often go unnoticed. Why is it important to listen to people who give voice to – and the voices of – those who are unnoticed? What does it tell us about how we can re-order our lives?