Lesson 4: Jesus and… the poor
Duet 15:11, Mt 8:20, 2Cor 8:9, Luke 4:18

*Leader note: consider reading each verse and then asking the corresponding question(s). The intent is for this lesson to explain broadly that poverty is not a part of God's plan, but it is present in our world thus God acts. He invites us to be a part of that action.

- *God has always intended for the believer to care for the poor*
    - **Duet 15:11** For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

1) Do you think poverty was a part of God's original design for our world?
2) How does this verse reveal something about God?

- *Jesus himself was a carpenter and experienced poverty and homelessness*
    - **Mt 8:20** And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

1) What do you think about Jesus himself experiencing the hardships of poverty and homelessness?
2) Why might Jesus who is God choose to experience that?

- *Jesus became poor for you*
    - **2Cor 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

1) The Christian life revolves around a trade (Jesus in our place). How does this trade in 2nd Corinthians work?

- *Love the poor as Jesus has loved us*
    - **Luke 4:18** "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,"

1) According to this verse and what you observe, what different types of poverty exist in our world today?
2) What ways might we be able to partner with God in his efforts to care for and love the poor (physically, spiritually, emotionally, etc.)?