

Why Are We Here?
Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable
Part III: What Are Our Next Steps?

Meditation on Isaiah 58:2-12 (NIV)

*“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness[a] will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.
Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.*

*“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.*

Small Group Discussion 1:

Where are you engaged in practices described in this passage as an individual?

Where are you are engaged in practices described in this passage in partnership with other members of Coast?

Small Group Discussion 2:

Share what you felt the Spirit speaking to you.

When everyone has shared, try to identify common themes in how the Spirit is speaking to the people in your group.

Food For Thought:

Ideas for things to we can do together as a church should . . .

1. involve a significant monetary or relational commitment
2. be something you, yourself would plan to do and would like to do in partnership with others whose commitment of time and resources would not exceed your own

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