

# Other Resources for Facilitators using the Weems Study Guide

## SESSION 1

### How do we relate to our community?

#### Chapter 3

*Kids Guide for Social Action* ISBN# 157542-038-4

*Kids Guide for Service Projects* ISBN 978-0-915793-822

*Hands on Service Projects* ISBN 1559457899

OK Volunteers in Mission (VIM) [www.okumcministries.org/vim/ok.asp](http://www.okumcministries.org/vim/ok.asp)

OK Youth Force [www.okumcministries.org/Youth/Youth\\_Force.htm](http://www.okumcministries.org/Youth/Youth_Force.htm)

## SESSION 2

### How do we relate to one another?

#### Chapter 8

Immigration is an important issue for us in Oklahoma. For a controversial discussion on Immigration reform you might use this article:

[http://www.captc.org/pubpol/immigration/HB1804brief\\_final.pdf](http://www.captc.org/pubpol/immigration/HB1804brief_final.pdf)

## SESSION 3

### How do we help people relate to God?

#### Chapter 10

*Companions in Christ*

*Living the Questions*

Journaling

Walk to Emmaus

Academy for Spiritual Formation

## **SESSION 4**

### **How do we serve God's Mission?**

#### Chapter 4

*Book of Resolutions* paragraph 160 on page 414

*Social Principles*: Economic Community Paragraph E. (page 28)

Other data that of interest:

By county [www.oica.org](http://www.oica.org)

Percept information: Contact Diana Northcutt for more information:

[dnorthcutt@okumc.org](mailto:dnorthcutt@okumc.org)

Or logon at [www.Link2lead.com](http://www.Link2lead.com) for help in the local church

#### Chapter 12

See additional resources in the *Book of Worship*, Peace with Justice Sunday, p 428

OK Conference Board of Church & Society – contact Allen Buck, [fumclg@sstelco.com](mailto:fumclg@sstelco.com)

*Social Principles* Study Guide

Justice p 36

Poverty p 28

War p 36

Racism p 15

The Social Creed found either in the *Book of Worship*, *UM Hymnal*, or the *Social Principles* Study Guide

### **Other resources to read to enhance the Study Guide:**

Nixon, P. *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*. Pilgram Press, 2006.

\*Downloadable Study Guide @ [www.epicentergroup.org](http://www.epicentergroup.org) - \$16.00

Schnase, R. *5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. Abingdon Press, 2006.

## Facts about Poverty in Oklahoma

- Over 50% of all babies born in Oklahoma are born under Medicaid
- One out of every four Oklahoma children lives in poverty
- Oklahoma's youngest are Oklahoma's poorest with more than eighty-four thousand infants, toddlers, and preschoolers under the age of five living in poverty
- Oklahoma led all other states in worsening poverty for young children over the last two decades
- During the most recent three years on record, the proportion of Oklahoma children living in poverty worsened from 21.7% in 1990 to 25.4 % in 1993 with comparable rates also worsening in the vast majority of Oklahoma's counties.
- Poverty kills Oklahoma children. Poor children are three times more likely to die during their childhood than non-poor children.
- Poverty hurts Oklahoma children. Poor children are more likely than non-poor children to eat an inadequate diet, to stay cold in the winter, and to receive little health care.
- Children represent twenty five percent of the residents in Oklahoma's general population homeless shelters.
- Poor children are more likely to experience poor health, have out-of-wedlock births, experience violent crime, act out violently later in life, and end up poor as adults.
- The younger the child, the greater the harm The first years of a child's life are a formative period, crucial to emotional and intellectual development. Poverty for infants and toddlers poses serious threats to brain development. Poverty increases the risks of inadequate nutrition, poor health care, exposure to environmental toxins and substance abuse, maternal depression, trauma and abuse, and inadequate childcare.
- Poor children are more likely than non-poor children to score low on standardized tests, drop out of school and face resulting severe economic and social consequences including less employment opportunity, poorer earning ability, higher rates of substance abuse, and higher unemployment.
- Oklahoma ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation for people in poverty (14.8%) for the 3 year average of 1996-98.
- Half (50.3%) of the respondents reported they were currently employed for an average of 34 hours per week. While the pay rate averaged \$6.51 per hour, respondents most often reported their pay rate was \$5.15 per hour (minimum wage). Most jobs were clerical or service-related, such as nursing aide, receptionist, or housekeeping.
- A family of three, with no other income, is eligible for a maximum of \$335 in Food Stamps in Oklahoma. That is less than \$1.25 per person, per meal.
- The same size family would be eligible for \$292 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families payments per month. From that they would pay rent, utilities, clothing, transportation, insurance, and all the other daily living costs.
- The percentage of people in poverty in Oklahoma for the most recent two-year period was 11.8, while the percentage of those without health insurance was 20.1 a 1.3 percent increase from the previous period, and third highest in the nation, behind only Texas and New Mexico.

- Median household income in Oklahoma for the most recent period was \$38,274, up \$693 from the previous period and about \$6,000 under the national median income. Only seven states had a lower median income than Oklahoma.
- The poverty threshold differs by the size and makeup of a household. For instance, a family of four with two children was considered living in poverty if income was \$19,157 or less. For a family of two with no children, it was \$12,649. For a person 65 and over living alone, it was \$9,060.
- Twenty percent of women with incomes from job or business live below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Forty four percent of women living below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level had an income from a job or business..
- 48% of Oklahoma school children qualified for free and reduced-price meals.
- While the national average for People Under Age 18 in poverty was an estimated 20.8 percent in 1995, the state average was 26 percent. Six Oklahoma counties had more than 40 percent of their children in poverty and one (Harmon County) had a 52.4 percent child-poverty rate.

**For information on hosting a poverty simulation event, contact our office at:**

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405-815-5339 or 1-800-879-6552/405-605-2839 fax -  
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[www.nccp.org](http://www.nccp.org)  
Oklahoma: Demographics of Low-Income Children:  
[http://nccp.org/profiles/state\\_profile.php?state=OK&id=6](http://nccp.org/profiles/state_profile.php?state=OK&id=6)