



Behold!

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you...

James 5:4

Mini Scripture study (B):

Leviticus 25 (NRSV) and/or James 5:4 (NRSV)

Start by reading above passage(s), before you begin with study questions. Take a moment to pray the “Prayer of Illumination” * – (repeat 3X)

Discussion questions:

- What has happened to US wages? Where has the wealth gone?
- Does greed influence a capitalist economy? If so, how does this occur?
- How does scripture advise us to be wary of debt and the snare of it?
- Is establishing a Jubilee system doable in our capitalist economy? In our justice system?

Additional material to better integrate this lesson.

a. Wage Theft/fraud – Unfortunately it is quite common for employers to steal wages from workers, that is to fail to pay employees all they earn. Up to two-thirds of workers in low-wage industries are victims of wage theft each week. Failure to pay for all hours worked or for overtime are just some examples of the ways employers steal wages. View and discuss [How Black Americans Were Robbed of Their Land](#)

b. Work to end wage theft in your community. Work to end wage theft in your community. Learn more. Low-wage workers are high-value people, created in the image of God. Examine the role of a debt-based economic system, income and wealth gaps. Further examine Biblical Debt Jubilee and Debt Cancellation as a Biblical Norm. God’s reign does not stop at the door to the workplace but extends to all aspects of life including our work lives. View and discuss the [Cash Bail Bond Reform Sketch](#).

Action Item:

- What is God calling you and your faith community to do?
- What are your goals and timeline for completion?

Further Reading/Discussion:

- Reparatory Justice Series: Housing Land and Debt
- Community UCC advocacy efforts
- After Cash Bail: A Framework for Re-Imagining Retrial Justice

*Prayer of Illumination

Creator God,

We welcome you in this space

May your liberating spirit

Saturate and transform this physical/virtual space and enliven our Covenant

Open our hearts and minds to receive, reflect, and redress

Engage our senses

Engage our bodies

Engage our souls

We are yours.

Transform us together now and always

In community we prayer,

Amen.

With your generous support, The United Church of Christ, through the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering, helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service.

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For more resources and to share and learn best practices for economic justice/change, join the UCC Economic Justice Champions, [here](#).

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www.ucc.org/nin. Thank You!

