

08 PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

KEY TEXT: EXODUS 22:21-27; LEVITICUS 19:9-10

CENTRAL truth

The Israelites had been recipients of God’s compassion and generosity, and they were called to respond with compassion and generosity toward others. The Lord made it clear that they had not been freed from their oppression so that they might become oppressors. Together, we will be reminded that **God calls us to protect the vulnerable.**

key question

How is God’s command in verse 21 linked to the Israelites’ experience? Why is this important?

Verse 21 links God’s command regarding vulnerable individuals to the Israelites’ own experience of being “resident aliens in the land of Egypt.” God had graciously freed them from Pharaoh’s oppression. Now, He called them to respond to this grace by treating others with the same compassion and care that they had been shown. Out of the overflow of God’s compassion toward us, we’re called to extend His compassion to those also made in His image and likeness.

keep in mind

- If you are following our recommended teaching schedule, this lesson will be taught on the same week as Sanctity of Life Sunday. Remind students that Genesis 1:26-28 lays the foundation for the Christian belief that all human beings hold inherent dignity, worth, and value. As followers of Jesus, we are called to protect the vulnerable as fellow image bearers and out of the overflow of what God has done for us in Christ.
- This week’s **Leader Challenge** will invite you to help students identify a ministry or other non-profit organization that they can serve. It will be helpful if you come prepared with a list of ideas to share with your group. Feel free to involve another ministry leader in this process.

application

Read Genesis 1:26-28. How should this shape the way we see and treat those around us?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should recognize God’s generosity toward them in Christ. Challenge them to identify whom the vulnerable are around them and serve them.

FOR THE LEADER: Help students find practical ways to live out this week’s teaching in their spheres of influence. If possible, create an opportunity for them to serve alongside one another.

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