

## Poverty

### Passages from the bible on the theme of poverty, including the GCSE scripture texts on poverty

You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry"  
*Exodus 22:22*

-----

"For six years you will sow your land and gather its produce, but in the seventh year you will let it lie fallow and forgo all produce from it, so that those of your people who are poor can take food from it and the wild animals eat what they have left. You will do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove."  
*Exodus 23:10-11*

-----

"Lord, who can compare with you in rescuing the poor from the oppressor, the needy from the exploiter?"  
*Psalms 35:10*

-----

"Happy the man who cares for the poor and the weak: if disaster strikes, Yahweh will come to his help."  
*Psalms 41:1*

-----

"Uprightly, he will defend the poorest, he will save the children of those in need and crush their oppressors."  
*Psalms 72:4*

-----

"God gives justice to the oppressed, gives food to the hungry."  
*Psalms 146:7*

-----

"Though the farms of the poor yield much food, some perish for lack of justice."  
*Proverbs 13:23*

-----

"By what right do you crush my people and grind the faces of the poor?' says the Lord Yahweh Sabaoth."  
*Isaiah 3:15*

---

"Cry and Yahweh will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here'.  
If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word,  
if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed,  
your light will rise in the darkness and your shadows become like noon."  
*Isaiah 58:9-10*

---

When evening came, the disciples went to Jesus and said, "This is a lonely place, and time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves." But they answered, "All we have with us is five loaves and two fish." So he said, "Bring them here to me." He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples, who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps left over, twelve baskets full. Now about five thousand men had eaten, to say nothing of women and children."  
*Matthew 14:15-21*

---

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."  
*Matthew 25:35-36*

---

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you to drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me".  
*Matthew 25:37-40*

---

"He has pulled down princes from their thrones and raised high the lowly. He has filled the starving with good things, sent the rich away empty."  
*Luke 1:52-53*

---

Jesus, fixing his eyes on his disciples, said:

"How blessed are you who are poor: the kingdom of God is yours.  
Blessed are you who are hungry now: you shall have your fill.  
Blessed are you who are weeping now: you shall laugh."  
*Luke 6:20-21*

---

"Give us each day our daily bread."  
*Luke 11:3*

---

"Life does not consist in possessions, even when someone has more than he needs."  
*Luke 12:15*

---

Jesus told the crowd a parable, "There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, 'What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?' So it is when someone stores up treasure for himself instead of becoming rich in the sight of God."  
*Luke 12:16-21*

---

"Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."  
*Luke 12:33-34*

---

"Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relations or rich neighbours, in case they invite you back and so repay you. No, when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; then you will be blessed, for they have no means to repay you and so you will be repaid when the upright rise again.'  
*Luke 14:12-13*

---

'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus,

covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames". "My son," Abraham replied, "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too". "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them". "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

*Luke 16:19-31*

-----

'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

*John 10:10*

-----

"None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need. There was a Levite of Cypriot origin called Joseph whom the apostles surnamed Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'). He owned a piece of land and he sold it and brought the money, and presented it to the apostles."

*Acts 4:34-37*

-----

If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead."

*James 2:15-17*

*Passages from The Jerusalem Bible, Darton Longman and Todd, 1974*