



24-7 SPACES

LENT 2012

WALK WITH US

week 2

JESUS: REVOLUTION

**use this deeper guide alone, with
family or friends or your
church small group**

40 DAYS. 5 MINUTES. 1 GOSPEL.

CONTENTS

1. **Reflect**: thinking time
2. **React**: Journaling or discussion
3. **Respond**: get practical

MATERIALS NEEDED

- A Bible
- Gift Tags
- Film: 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas'(2008)

REFLECT:

Use the following Bible passage, Film, song lyrics and quotes for reflection.

Start by reading John 2-4:42

Watch the film "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" (2008)

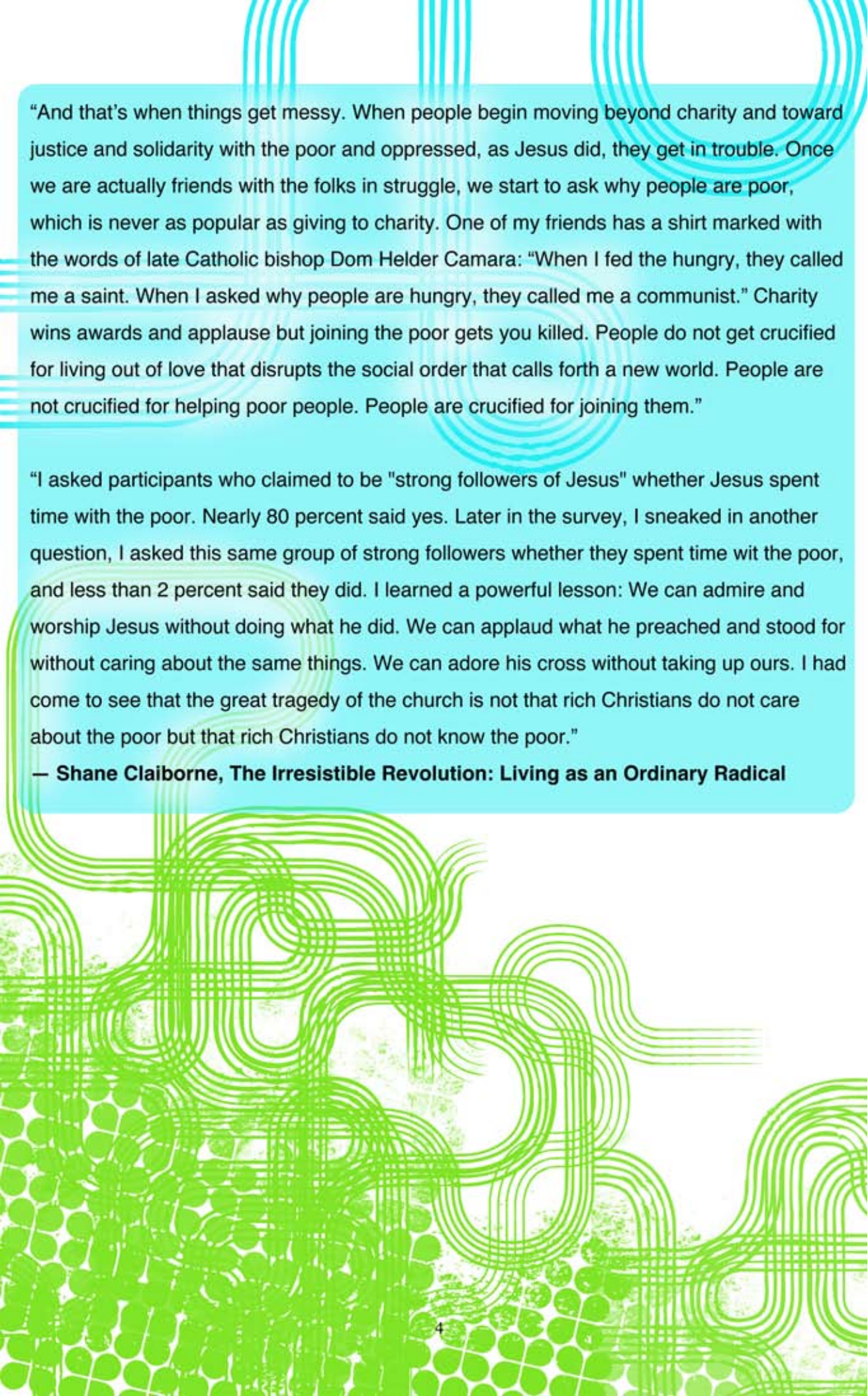
*One man come in the name of love
One man come and go
One man come here to justify
One man to overthrow
In the name of love!
One man in the name of love
In the name of love!
What more? In the name of love!*

(Lyrics from "Pride" - In The Name of Love - U2)

"Jesus vigorously promoted the dignity and equality of women in the midst of a very male-dominated society: Jesus was a feminist, and a very radical one. Can his followers attempt to be anything less"?-- **Leonard Swidler**

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope...build(ing) a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." **(Robert F. Kennedy)**

"God is in the poor who cry out. And God is the one who listens to the cry and liberates, so that the poor no longer need to cry out." **(Leonardo Boff)**



"And that's when things get messy. When people begin moving beyond charity and toward justice and solidarity with the poor and oppressed, as Jesus did, they get in trouble. Once we are actually friends with the folks in struggle, we start to ask why people are poor, which is never as popular as giving to charity. One of my friends has a shirt marked with the words of late Catholic bishop Dom Helder Camara: "When I fed the hungry, they called me a saint. When I asked why people are hungry, they called me a communist." Charity wins awards and applause but joining the poor gets you killed. People do not get crucified for living out of love that disrupts the social order that calls forth a new world. People are not crucified for helping poor people. People are crucified for joining them."

"I asked participants who claimed to be "strong followers of Jesus" whether Jesus spent time with the poor. Nearly 80 percent said yes. Later in the survey, I sneaked in another question, I asked this same group of strong followers whether they spent time with the poor, and less than 2 percent said they did. I learned a powerful lesson: We can admire and worship Jesus without doing what he did. We can applaud what he preached and stood for without caring about the same things. We can adore his cross without taking up ours. I had come to see that the great tragedy of the church is not that rich Christians do not care about the poor but that rich Christians do not know the poor."

— **Shane Claiborne, *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical***

REACT:

(1) After watching the film "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (2008). Reflect upon the friendship between Bruno and Shmuel that isn't permitted because Shmuel is a Jew in a concentration camp and Bruno's dad a German Commandant. Who are the people in our society who are shunned or excluded? Perhaps refugees or travellers or those with a mental illness. How can you break social barriers and find ways to include them?

Think about how the film gives the perspective of the perpetrators of horrific crimes of torture during the Holocaust? Who are the people within your neighbourhood, who are "perpetrators"? How can we try to understand and show kindness to them? Perhaps consider spending time visiting those in prison.

(2) Consider Jesus' response to the money changers in the temple. The temple was supposed to be a place where people could come to pray and instead was being used to rip off the poor. Those wanting to buy animals to sacrifice had to exchange their money for temple money and the exchange rates were extortionate? Reflect on Shane Claiborne's quote that "We can admire and worship Jesus without doing what he did. We can applaud what he preached and stood for without caring about the same things." Think of the ways the poor are being exploited and ripped off. How can you reflect Jesus' bias towards the poor today?

(3) Reflect on Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well and on Leonard Swidler's quote. Jesus was subverting the social order, being alone with a woman and a Samaritan woman at that. Jesus is breaking the unjust racist and sexist barriers of the time by speaking with her. What are the unjust barriers in our society today? Who are the Samaritan women today? How can you act in a way to break these unjust barriers?

(4) Ponder the Lyrics to the U2 song that Jesus came to "overthrow in the name of love" and on John 3:16. Reflect on how love underpinned all that Jesus did.

(5) Think of the different ways Jesus subverted the social, political and religious order of the time. What are the ways he brought about change to the order of things? Think about the areas of our society where Jesus would want to bring change. What are the areas in which the order of our time is unjust, exploits and oppresses. How can you be an agent of change?

RESPOND:

1. Personal:

Following your reflection on the revolutionary life of Jesus, how does your perspective or mindset change? How can you live a more 'revolutionary' life?

Welcome someone who is shunned or excluded and find a way to include and make friends with them.

2. Practical:

Take a walk through a busy part of your city/town. As you walk, ask God to show you what he sees; the injustice, the poverty, the lost hope... Pray that God would show you how you could be the change. Tell someone about it and start living it.

Take one of the ways the poor are ripped off and exploited. Research the reasons why people are poor and the underlying issues? Do something to help combat this issue or act to improve the lot of others? Perhaps get involved with a local organisation or group who are already doing something or start something yourself.

3. Prayerful:

Pick an issue of need in the area where you live. Write your prayers on gift tags and tie them around an area that reflects that need. For example you could write prayers for the poor, those on welfare benefits or the unemployed and tie them around a deprived area of your neighbourhood.

Use this extract from Shane Claiborne's prayer this week.

Forgive us...
for the groaning of creation
for the millions who die of hunger and curable diseases
for warehousing people in prisons and using them for labor
for the scandal of billions wasted in war
for worrying about tomorrow and storing up more than this day our daily bread
for an economy that mirrors the seven deadly sins
for our Caesars and our Herods
for the violence and greed in our own hearts
Save us from ourselves.

Give us the courage...
to bless the poor in a world that blesses the middle class.
to bless the meek in a world that admires aggression.
to bless the hungry in a world that feeds the already fed.
to bless the merciful in a world that shows no mercy on evildoers.
to bless the pure in heart in a world of clutter and noise.
to bless the peacemakers in a world that baptizes bombs.

NEXT WEEK...

JESUS: HOME

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LENT 2012

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