

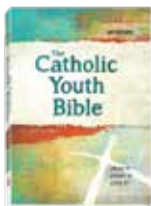


REALITY CHECK

This activity engages students in exploring social issues to discover whether basic human rights of the poor and vulnerable are being met in society.



- 1 Begin by inviting a student to read aloud Exodus 22:21–27 and the article “Support for All” from *The Catholic Youth Bible* near Exodus 22.
- 2 Ask the students if they agree with this statement: “The basic moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members.” Solicit responses from the students in the large group.
- 3 Ask the students to discuss briefly with a partner whether they believe the society they live in passes this basic moral test. Invite the students to share their thoughts with the entire class.
- 4 Assign each student a social issue (housing, education, health care, nutrition, poverty, and so on) to research. Tell the students that their task is to find out how society is addressing their assigned issue—are we passing the basic moral test? Before they begin their research, ask each student to write about how they think society is responding to the issue, based on what they currently know. In their research, the students should be encouraged to discover concrete facts and statistics so they can accurately describe the issue and how society is responding.
- 5 After the students have done their research, invite each student to share with the other students in small groups what they have learned, focusing on the following questions:
 - Did the reality of the issue match up with your initial assumptions? Explain what some of the similarities and differences were.
 - Are we passing the basic moral test as a society? Give evidence from your research to support your answer.
 - What can we do to better take care of the poor and vulnerable in our society?



This activity is taken from Catholic Social Teaching Activities, which is part of the online resources for The Catholic Youth Bible®, fourth edition.