

## 2 UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION: ITS FORMS



### **A. Introduction**

Susan (not the real name) lost her phone to gangsters in a carjacking incident. Numerous trips to the police station for help in tracing her lost phone proved unfruitful; they were disinterested in her case because she was unwilling to give them "something." In her efforts to buy a new one, she could not afford the one she liked because she was offering Ksh.1000 less than what the trader demanded. She was finally offered the phone at her price on condition that she does not demand for an official receipt. After some thought, she accepted the deal, bought the phone, tested it and walked out of the shop. The reality that she had evaded paying tax to the government in her transaction later hit her when she reached her house. "Am I different from the corrupt police officers?" she wondered.

### **B. Among Individuals: Exodus: 23:1-9**

1. What instructions did the Lord give to the people as recorded in this passage?
2. If the people did as they were instructed, how do you think this would affect their society?
3. a. Have you ever participated in any of the things discouraged above? If so, which ones?  
b. How are the various issues mentioned in the passage reflected in our society today?

### **C. In Institutions: 1 Kings 21:1-16**

1. Describe the events leading to the death of Naboth and what happens thereafter.
2. How do the actions of the various characters amount to corruption?
3. a. What are some similar incidences in our society?  
b. Have you ever used your power/position corruptly? How do you intend to avoid doing the same?

### **D. Memory Verse: Exodus 23:8**

"Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the righteous."

### **E. Point of Reflection**

In this study, you have reflected on how corruption manifests itself in different forms in your own life and society. Identify at least one of these areas that you think touches closest to you. Over the next one week, search the scriptures and find out more of what it says about this area. Share your discovery with at least one other person.

### **Additional Passages**

Luke 3:12-14, Daniel 6, 2 Kings 5:15-27, Proverbs 17:23.