

Integrity:

A Weapon

Against

Corruption



Integrity: A Weapon Against Corruption

**A BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR
USE BY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS**

This Bible Study Guide was first produced in November 2008 by the Kenya Anti Corruption Commission (KACC) in partnership with the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK) and the Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS)

Printed by Colour Print

Cover design by:

KACC and Seven Integrated, Nairobi

Edited by:

KACC, FOCUS Kenya and EAK.

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of any of the three bodies named above.

Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version, copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of the International Bible Society.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Notes to the Leader	iv
Notes to the Members	vi
Foreword	vii
Preface	viii

PART ONE: UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION

Understanding Corruption: Its Roots	1
Understanding Corruption: Its Forms	3
Understanding Corruption: Its Manifestation in Church	5
Understanding Corruption: Its Consequences and Impact	7

PART TWO: DEVELOPING VALUES

Developing Values: Foundational Pillars	10
Developing Values: Seeking Transformation	12
Developing Values: Attitudes Towards Money and Wealth	14
Developing Values: The Pillar of Integrity	16

PART THREE: RESPONDING TO CORRUPTION

Responding to Corruption: Personal Responsibility	19
Responding to Corruption: Societal Responsibility	21
Responding to Corruption: The Role of the Church	23
Responding to Corruption: Challenges and Benefits	25

Notes To The Leader

This study guide is meant for both individual and group use. To get the most out of it as a group, the leader needs to adequately prepare before the study time. Below are a few hints on how to lead a Bible Study discussion:

A. Before the Meeting

1. Study the passage prayerfully until God has spoken to you through it
2. Go through the questions and study to learn what God may be saying to you personally and to the group. In this guide you will find three types of questions:

Observation

Questions on facts from the passage

Interpretation

Questions on meaning or understanding of the facts

Application

Questions for personal or group application of the facts

3. Pray for both the study group and each individual in your group.

B. During the Meeting

1. Create a free and cheerful atmosphere where each member feels free to participate.
2. Have the passage read aloud by one or more members.
3. Make a brief introduction to the study. (One is included at the beginning of each study).
4. Proceed with the questions. Be flexible. Rephrase questions if need be, but keep the discussion centred on the passage. Stick to the Bible as your authority.
5. Watch the time so that you cover the study adequately and have time for prayer and sharing.

C. Remember

It is important to spend enough time Observing the text in order to answer Interpretation and Application questions meaningfully.

6. Aim at each member leaving the study with at least one specific application.
7. Encourage members to prepare individually for the next study.

D. After the Meeting

1. Be sensitive to any needs of members that should be attended to and make the necessary follow up.
2. Encourage members to meet each other informally during the week and to share their experiences.

E. Scripture Memory

Encourage members to memorize the verse(s) given at the end of each study during the week. Check one another at the next group meeting.

F. Point of Reflection

This part is a useful addition to the application questions. It offers guidance for further reflections and actions on the message of the study. Encourage members to take it seriously. Where called for, spend some time to reflect on it. In cases where future action is recommended, create time later to follow up with one another on progress.

NOTE

This study is based on the New International Version of the Bible. The actual wordings of various verses may vary depending on which version of the Bible you are using. This, however, should not affect the benefit drawn from the studies.

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work”.

Ephesians 4:16

Notes To The Members

For your small group to grow and build itself up, each member must do his/her part. Here are some suggestions:

1. Prepare

a. The Group Study

Going through the study questions beforehand will lead you into a deeper personal discovery of truth. This will help you relate God's word more to your life. It will also help you to be a better participant rather than a spectator during the group discussion.

b. Daily Quiet Time

Your own personal walk with God will greatly affect the group. Meeting Jesus daily will make you a better group member.

c. Your Heart

The group study may be exciting or boring depending on your attitude. Always come with an expectant and joyful spirit.

2. Participate

a. In the Discussion

Each member's discoveries are important (1 Corinthians 12:12-30). If you are shy, take courage to speak. If you are talkative, let others speak first.

b. In the Group's Activities

The small group includes more than Bible Study. It also includes Prayer, Fellowship, and Witness. Do your part to encourage each other.

c. With One Other Member

Try to know one other member well, perhaps as a prayer partner.

3. Pray

Above all else, pray for your group, your leader, and yourself that together you will grow to maturity in Christ (Ephesians 3:14-19).

FOREWORD

I am delighted to have been invited to make a contribution in the opening pages of this Bible Study Guide. I have tremendous faith that religion can inspire all of us in leading lives of integrity and shunning corruption. Although the fight against corruption in Kenya is predicated on the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act and other statutes, the Law of God provides the most enduring influence on our conduct as human beings. This Guide has identified the Books of the Bible that speak to God's will for humanity. In many of these instances, the prophetic voice questions our conduct as God's creation urging us to tread the straight and narrow.

The Commission has continued to employ a three-pronged strategy of law enforcement, corruption prevention and public education in the fight against corruption. It is our understanding as Kenyans that the fight against corruption must be inspired by the personal resolve to shun evil, do good and aspire towards a society that promotes excellence in values, word and deed. We continue to partner with many law enforcement agencies, other government departments, schools, private sector actors and civil society. However, we believe that this fight will benefit from a much greater impetus if we use places of worship as the vanguard platform of advocacy against corruption in Kenya. It is for this reason that our partnership with the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK) and Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS) Kenya has yielded this much needed tool in the form of an Anti-Corruption Bible Study Guide in mainstreaming good governance and integrity.

The Guide is intended to help Kenyans interact with the Bible and discover God's position on corruption and His direction on living a corrupt free life. The fight against corruption is winnable but only if each and every one of us commits to leading a life that will enhance the virtues of integrity, justice, industry, patriotism and love for one another. It is our hope that this Guide will in turn signpost us towards areas of our personal lives where God's word will speak to us and improve our actions. All people of faith in Kenya should therefore come together to foster a restorative culture, reduce impunity and prevent corruption.

I commend this Bible Study Guide to the readership of all.

God Bless Kenya.



Hon. Justice (Rtd) Aaron G. Ringera, EBS
Director and Chief Executive
Kenya Anti Corruption Commission

PREFACE

The production of this guide is a result of partnership and consultations between the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC) and the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK). It is the culmination of a series of consultations, workshops and delegated assignments that involved members of the Commission's department of Education, Staff and church leaders from the EAK as well as staff and students from the Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS).

Being the result of a partnership involving three organizations, its production involved contribution from a wide variety of people. It was through the efforts of every one of them that it has become a reality. Only a few of these contributions are mentioned here.

The guide has been greatly enriched by a wide range of comments from various Church leaders both from National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) and Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK). The writing and printing was funded by the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC). Much appreciation goes to KACC, EAK and FOCUS staff for their valuable contributions to the whole process. They brought in their skills and experience to make this production successful.

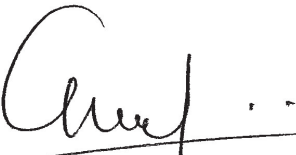
This wonderful Bible Study Guide is for everyone who wants to challenge the tide of corruption and seeks where to begin. Every member of our society has an opportunity to contribute to the success of the war against corruption. Regardless of your status in the society, you can help make a difference. This Guide not only inspires us to act it also inspires us to believe that our beloved country can be free from corruption. It leads

A timely and significant contribution, a challenge which inspires us to work together to fight corruption. The war can be won!

*Bishop Dr. Bonifas Adoyo
Bishop - Christ Is the Answer
Ministries-CITAM,
Board Chairman,
Evangelical Alliance of Kenya*

us to draw a lot of hope and inspiration from God through the message of the scriptures. Within its pages we find ourselves able to imagine a future where there is no corruption, where people are just and where, increasingly men and women equitably and sustainably share the resources of our nation. It helps us see our own experiences woven into the stories of men and women who struggled with corruption in the scriptures and fought it in most unique circumstances. Through their stories our views, values, convictions and practices are challenged and shaped.

As you study this Guide, let yourself be inspired to believe and to act. This way, you will ensure a better future for yourself, others around you and your society.



Rev. Dr. Wellington Mutiso
General Secretary - Evangelical Alliance of Kenya

PART ONE

UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION

1 UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION: ITS ROOTS

A. Introduction

How come corruption continues to find a place and thrives among us, when most people agree on the fact that it is evil? How is it that we continue to have corrupt leaders when we know that the health of our society demands that we do not vote for such? Corruption is, indeed, an intricate problem. Examining this problem from the view of God's Word would help us see that it is deep, with roots in the hearts of men right from the beginning of humanity. If we would understand corruption, so that we can effectively prevent and respond to it, then we must do so from the roots. Otherwise, it will always abide with us.

B. The Beginning: Genesis 3:1-14

1. Observe the chain of events in this story.
2. What do you think motivated Adam and Eve to disobey God by eating the fruit?
3.
 - a. In what ways are we like Adam and Eve in our nature and desires?
 - b. How do these similarities contribute to corruption in individuals and institutions?

C. The Result: Jeremiah 17:9-11

1. What does this passage say about the nature of the human heart and what it leads to?
2.
 - a. What does it mean to have a deceitful heart?
 - b. How does a man who acquires wealth unjustly compare with a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay?
3. Human nature is complex and difficult to understand. From your observation in the passage:
 - a. How does the message of this passage help you to understand the problem of corruption in our society?
 - b. Have you ever acquired anything dishonestly? What led you to do this and what have you done about it?

D. Memory Verse: Jeremiah 17:9, 10.

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

E. Point of Reflection

Having explored the roots of corruption from these passages, take a moment and reflect on the state of your own heart; that central part of you from which your attitudes, values and all actions flow. What is the state therein? Are there things that make it fertile ground to breed corruption? Ask God to help you deal with it now and in the days to come as you go through these studies.

Additional Passage

Genesis 3:20-24.

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.

3 UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION: ITS MANIFESTATIONS IN CHURCH

A. Introduction

The church, being a community of God's people, is expected to be free of all forms of corruption, and also to set the pace for the rest of society. However, the truth is that many times, the church is a reflection of the society in which it exists and vice versa. It thus follows that where corruption thrives in the wider society, it can also most likely be found not only among Christians but also even among church leaders. An attempt by Christians at reflecting on and engaging the subject of corruption would thus be incomplete without an inward look. We would need to first of all "remove the log in our own eyes," and then we would be of help to society in tackling the evil of corruption.



B. Among Christians: Acts 5:1-11

1. Describe the circumstances leading to the death of Anania and Sapphira?
2. What do you think was wrong with what they did?
3. a. What are some similar examples in which corruption manifests itself among Christians today?
b. How have you responded to similar temptations in your life?

C. Among Church Leaders: Micah 3:5-12

1. What quarrel does God have with the various leaders, and what judgment does he pronounce upon them?
2. What could have been the consequences of the leaders' actions to the community of God's people?
3. a. Give examples of ways in which church leaders today engage in similar corrupt practices.
b. In your own life, are there times you have found yourself engaging in

similar practices and what have you done about it?

D. Memory Verse: Micah 3:11

"Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. Yet they lean upon the LORD and say, is not the LORD among us? No disaster will come upon us."

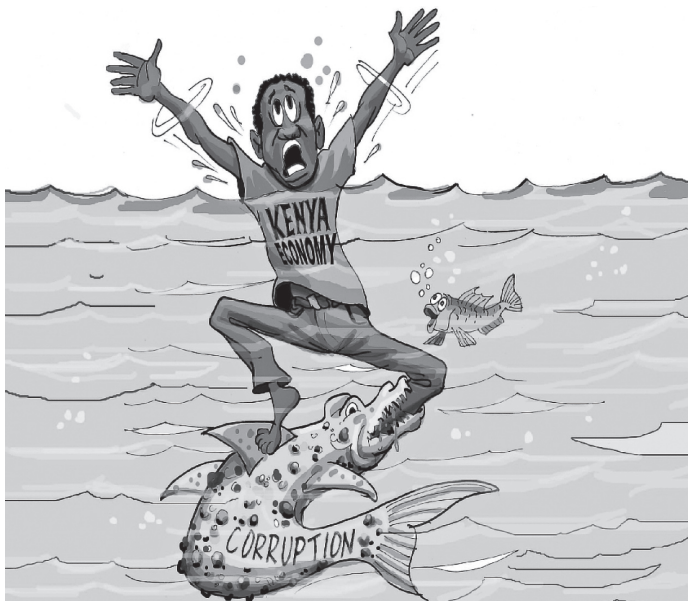
E. Point of Reflection

Identify at least one example of corruption that could be manifesting itself in your fellowship. Determine a specific step you are going to take as an individual or as a group to address it. Write these down and spend a few minutes in prayer about it.

Additional Passages

Acts 8:14-23, Luke 24:1-5.

4 UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION: ITS CONSEQUENCES AND IMPACT



A. Introduction

Whereas people engage in corrupt practices in the misguided belief that it is beneficial, at least to them, the reality is that the impact of their corrupt practices causes harm not only to society but ultimately to themselves as well. If the Sovereign God detests corruption, then engaging in it will surely not bring blessing and prosperity to the individual and society. It will only bring his retribution. This study guides us in discovering the consequences and impact of corruption so that we can make concrete decisions that would help eradicate this menace.

B. Consequences of Corruption: Micah 6:6-16

1. From this passage what are the consequences of engaging in unjust and corrupt practices?
2. Why do you think that God outlined these consequences to the people?
3. a. Have you witnessed or experienced such consequences in your life or in your society?

- b. What practical steps could you take to avoid such consequences?

C. Impact of Corruption:

1. What was the suffering of the Jewish people and what caused it?
2. How did the suffering affect the people?
3. How do corrupt people's actions negatively affect the common people in our society today?

D. Memory Verse: Micah 6:15

"You will plant but not harvest; you will press olives but not use the oil on yourselves, you will crush grapes but not drink the wine."

E. Point of Reflection

What new perspective are you taking out of this study? How will you use it to make your society a better place?

Additional Passages

Amos 5:4-17, Proverbs 15:6, Proverbs 16,19,27, Proverbs 13:6, Proverbs 15:27, Ecclesiastes 7:7, Proverbs 17:8.

PART TWO

DEVELOPING VALUES

The challenge is clear. Christians need to be firmly grounded in the truths of Scriptures, so that they are equipped to fight corruption and set a good example in society.

Mr. Kiragu Wachira
Legal Advisor
Evangelical Alliance of Kenya

5 DEVELOPING VALUES: FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS



A. Introduction

Is it inevitable that corruption be ingrained in our society? A society built on Godly values is one where evil is hardly practiced because the people in such a society are driven by Godly values to shun evil and to seek what is good. Therefore, the best way to avoid nurturing or falling into corruption as individuals and as a society is to develop our value systems. In this area, God, who is the creator of man and society, has provided the starting point. The Ten Commandments were given to Moses to guide the Nation of Israel on how to relate with God and with each other as they formed a new community. The dictates of this law are relevant for any community, and living by them brings much good and many benefits to the individual and the society.

B. My Duty to God: Exodus 20:1-11

1. What instructions were the people given about how they should relate with God?
2. Why do you think God warned them sternly against idolatry?
3.
 - a. How does idolatry translate into corrupting oneself?
 - b. Identify areas in your life where you may have corrupted yourself through idolatry?
 - c. What will you do to correct this situation?

C. My Duty to Others: Exodus 20:12-17

1. Mention the different instructions given in this passage.
2. What would be the result of obeying these instructions on the lives of the individuals and their society?
3.
 - a. In what ways can failure to live up to this standard lead to corruption?
 - b. How does your life and that of your society compare to this standard? What can you do to improve?

D. Memory Verse: Exodus 20:3

"You shall have no other gods before me."

E. Point of Reflection

Look again at the illustration above. Is it a true reflection of your life, with all the components in place? Thank God for those that are in place, and ask him to help you develop those that are missing. Look out for these in the rest of this section of the study guide.

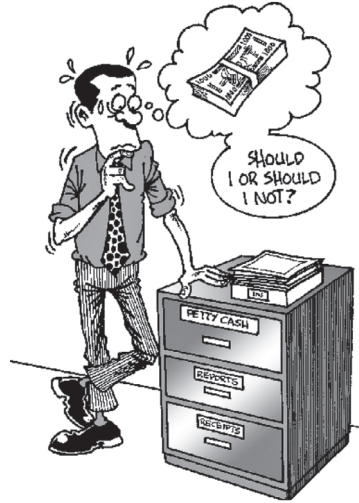
Additional Passages

Mark 12:28-34, Philippians 4:8-9, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

6 DEVELOPING VALUES: SEEKING TRANSFORMATION

A. Introduction

The development of Godly values requires not only the knowledge of what we ought to be and do, but also the courage and strength to do it. Mere intellectual assent, probably to statements of belief, is not enough. This is what both John the Baptist and the apostle Paul confronted their audiences about. In matters of corruption, just as in other moral issues, many people fail, not because they don't know what to do, but because there is a gap between what they know they ought to do and what they actually end up doing. It is therefore important, as we reflect on the development of values, to turn our attention to the question of transformation, which is the only way to ensure that we live out the values we know and admire.



B. A Call to Change: Luke 3:1-14

1. Identify the different categories of people John addressed and what he said to each of them.
2. From these instructions, identify the values John was advocating for.
3. If John were to address us today, in what areas do you think he would call on us to change as individuals, church and society?

C. A Changed Life: Ephesians 4:17-32

1. What instructions does Paul give to the Ephesians in this passage?
2. a. Paul implies that the people already knew the truth on how to conduct themselves, why do you think he found it necessary to still give these instructions?
b. Identify the values advocated in this passage.
3. a. How does the presence and/or absence of these values relate to corruption in society?

- b. To what extent could you say that these values are evident in your life?
- c. If any are lacking, why is this so and what will you do to develop them?

D. Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:2-24

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

E. Point of Reflection

In what areas of your life would you say that God has transformed you? Spend sometime to thank Him for this and also to pray for his help in the areas you identified in questions 3 (b) and (c) in this chapter?

Additional Passages

Hebrews 12:1-17, John 3:1-21.

7 DEVELOPING VALUES: ATTITUDES TOWARDS MONEY AND WEALTH



A. Introduction

We live in a world of materialism where one's worth is often determined by the wealth one has. The car one drives and the place one lives have become symbols of achievement in our communities. The temptation to get rich quickly and match one's peers is high. Any opportunities to 'eat' are taken with zeal. However, little is said about the dangers and consequences of 'getting rich quickly' by acquiring wealth illegally, especially through the looting of public coffers. In this study, we learn about walking the thin line between improving our lifestyles through dubious means and earning an honest living. For indeed, "godliness with contentment is great gain."

B. An Exhortation: Matthew 6:19-34

1. What were the people exhorted to do and not to do, and why?
2. How would you describe the attitude encouraged in this passage?
3. a. What is the importance in the fight against corruption of developing this attitude to individuals and societies?

- b. What motivates you in your daily pursuit of wealth?

C. A Warning: 1 Timothy 6:1-20

1.
 - a. Identify the pitfalls in the pursuit of wealth mentioned in this passage.
 - b. What instructions does the passage give to help avoid these pitfalls?
2. From this passage, what possible impacts could the pursuit of wealth have on one's discipleship?
3.
 - a. How is the message of this passage reflected in our society today, either positively or negatively?
 - b. How can you ensure that you do not fall into any of the pitfalls mentioned above?

D. Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 6:6-8

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."

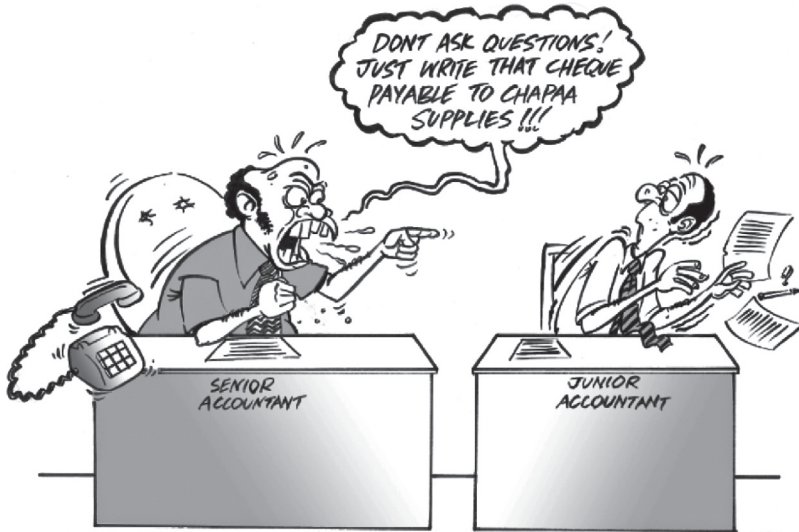
E. Point of Reflection

Are there points at which the message of this study conflicts with some things you have believed and probably held dear? Spend a few moments reflecting on this. Are you willing to let go and turn around? Make a definite commitment and pray about it.

Additional Passages

Matthew 19:16-22, Job 1:13-22.

8 DEVELOPING VALUES: THE PILLAR OF INTEGRITY



A. Introduction

In our attempt to live godly lives, we sometimes encounter cartels that protect an engrained culture of evil. These hinder organizational progress and sabotage any efforts towards transparency and better management of resources. The people who make a difference are often lone voices that make huge sacrifices. They endanger their professions and even their own lives. Daniel is such a man. He teaches us that we too can make a difference if we were determined to uphold integrity in our work places and communities. Even though immediate rewards are not guaranteed, we can leave behind a legacy that will affect many generations to come.

B. Challenges of Integrity: Daniel 6:1-17

1. Outline the events described in this passage.
2. a. What character traits do you see in the life of Daniel in this passage? Why do you think he upheld them?

- b. What dangers was he exposed to as a result of his strong principles?
- 3. Are there instances in your life when, like Daniel, there was need for you to stand up for your values in the midst of opposition? What transpired?

C. Rewards of Integrity: Daniel 6:18-28

- 1. What transpired after Daniel was thrown into the den of lions?
- 2. What were the ultimate consequences of Daniel's firmness?
- 3. Drawing from Daniel's example, what might be the ultimate rewards of integrity to:
 - a. An individual?
 - b . A society/nation?

D. Memory Verse: Daniel 6:4

"At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent."

E. Point of Reflection

Would you call yourself a person of integrity? On a scale of one to four, between poor, average, good and excellent, how would you rate yourself in this area?

Additional Passage

Genesis 39:4-12.

PART THREE

RESPONDING TO CORRUPTION

If you feel discouraged, disheartened and powerless in the face of corruption which has become a culture to some, and so are looking for a way to put your Christian faith into action, then this is the Guide for you.

*Bishop Dr. Stephen Kabachia
Agape Fellowship Churches
Treasurer
Evangelical Alliance of Kenya*

9 RESPONDING TO CORRUPTION: PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

A. Introduction

Even as we endeavour to work on developing values that will ensure we are free of the evil of corruption, it is necessary that we acknowledge that corruption is already alive and present among us. We therefore need to develop appropriate responses to this evil. The best point from which to start is to look at ourselves and find out whether we might be guilty in one way or another. If so, what should we do? As individuals we determine how best to respond to corruption in institutions and the society around us. This will more often than not be a task far from being simple but if society is to deal with corruption, it must start with the individuals who make up the whole.



B. In Your Life: Luke 19:1-10

1. Describe Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus and the results of this encounter.
2.
 - a. From the passage, what do you think was Zacchaeus' character and conduct before he met Christ?
 - b. What do you think is the significance of the promise he made in verse 8?
3.
 - a. What can we learn as individuals and as a country from this story about how to deal with people found to have been corrupt?
 - b. Is there anything in your possession, which you think you ought to return to the owners as Zacchaeus did? When do you intend to do this?

C. At Your Work Place: Daniel 6:1-28

1. Mention what the satraps and administrators did against Daniel. How did Daniel respond to the situation?

2. Why do you think the administrators and satraps were working against Daniel?
3. What lessons can you draw from Daniel's experience as a public servant about:
 - a. Corruption in the workplace?
 - b. Integrity in the workplace?

D. Memory Verse: Luke 19:8

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

E. Point of Reflection

Determine at least one area in which corruption is taking place in your life, family, fellowship, workplace or in the wider society, in which you need to take decisive personal responsibility. Come up with a clear action plan, share it with someone/some people and pray about it.

Additional Passages

Matthew 22:15-22, 1 Kings 21:17-23, Isaiah 1:10-20.

10 RESPONDING TO CORRUPTION: SOCIETAL RESPONSIBILITY

A. Introduction

Sometimes corruption can go on for so long and bring so much harm that one wonders whether nothing could have been done to stop it before it went that far. The truth is that many times we witness corrupt activities but we fear to raise alarm. Other times we think that we are too junior to make any difference. We are living in a generation in which sin can be easily accepted as a way of life. This has killed many people's conscience to an extent that they don't see a clear line between the right and wrong, good and bad, just and unjust.

In Nehemiah's society, slavery, oppression, mortgaging, among other deals were the order of the day. He stood out and reversed this system, leading the entire community to change its ways. This makes us believe that "we all can do something."



B. An Outcry: Nehemiah 5:1-6

1. What led the people to cry out against their countrymen?
2. What do you think were the underlying factors that led to this situation?
3. Compare and contrast the situation in the passage with our socio-political and economic situation today, both at local as well as national levels.

C. A Noble Response: Nehemiah 5:6-19

1. How did Nehemiah, the other nobles and officials and the rest of the people respond to the outcry of their countrymen?
2. a. How do you think Nehemiah's personal example contributed towards this change?

- b. Why do you think Nehemiah was so different from the other leaders both before and during his time?
- 3. a. What practical steps should we take at individual, institutional, church and national levels to address similar challenges among us today?
- b. Are there systems and traditions among us that encourage and facilitate corruption? What can we do about them?
- c. In light of this study, discuss the place of leadership and the law in the fight against corruption.

D. Memory Verse: Nehemiah 5:11-12

"Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the usury you are charging them - the hundredth part of the money, grain, new wine and oil." "We will give it back," they said. "And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say." Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised."

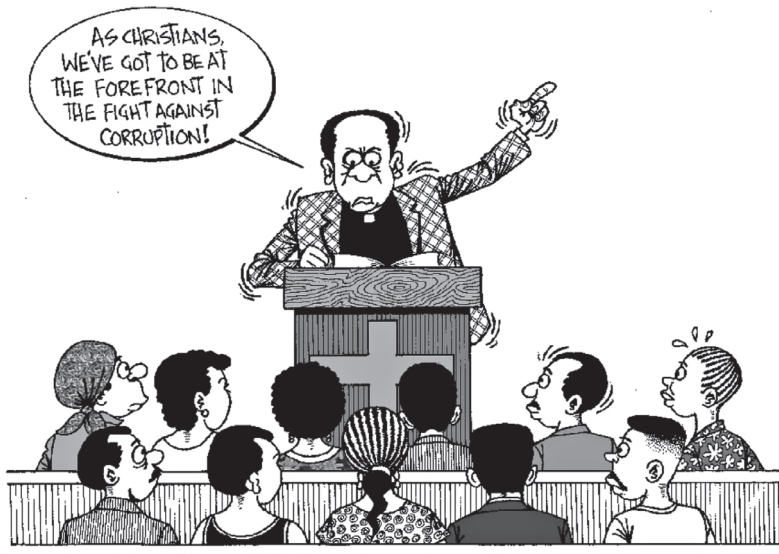
E. Point of Reflection

Besides the action steps already discussed in this study, identify at least one person or group of people with whom you will share the lessons you have learnt from this study. Determine when you will do it.

Additional Passages

Jonah 3:1-10, Deuteronomy 16:18-20.

11 RESPONDING TO CORRUPTION: THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH



A. Introduction

Christians, being God's people, are his agents in society. He expects His people to represent Him, bringing His values to bear on society. This is done both by modelling these values, teaching them as well as speaking out whenever they are trampled. In the fight against corruption, the church has a unique role to play.

A large part of our society today looks up to the religious people/institutions for leadership on the moral front. It is therefore highly appropriate that the church takes its position and provides the same. If this is done right and effectively, the results are guaranteed.

B. Setting the Standard: Matthew 5:13-16

1. To what does Jesus compare the believers and what are the resultant implications?

2. What nature and roles does this comparison assign to the believers?
3. How effective do you think Kenyan Christians and the church have been in playing this role, especially in the fight against corruption?

C. The Prophetic Voice: Ezekiel 3:16-21

1.
 - a. Identify the different circumstances described in this passage. What did God expect of the “watchman” in each of the circumstances?
 - b. What would be the consequences of his doing or failing to do as he was expected in each case?
2. What were the responsibilities, therefore, of the prophet towards God and his society?
3.
 - a. Are there instances in which you, as an individual or the church, have failed in effectively playing the prophetic role, as God would have you do? What have been the consequences of this failure?
 - b. What practical steps can be taken, in both cases, to do this effectively, especially concerning corruption in our society?

D. Memory Verse: Matthew 5:13

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.”

E. Point of Reflection

Are you a member/leader of a particular Christian fellowship? Determine at least one thing you will do to mobilise your fellowship for their role according to the teaching of this study.

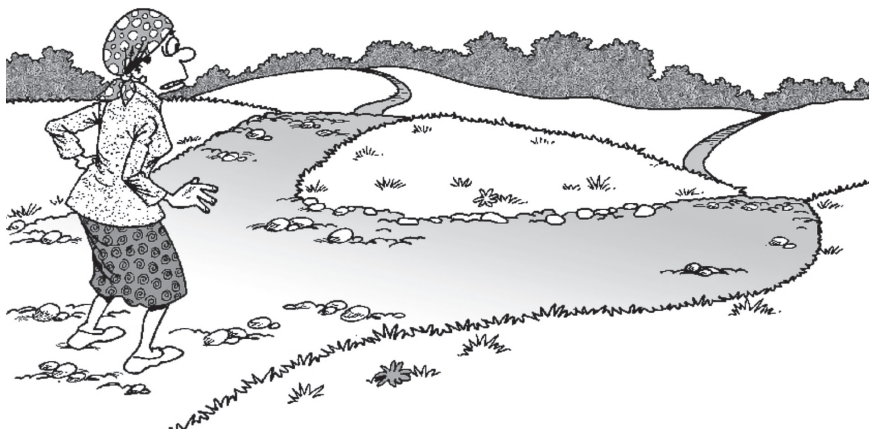
Additional Passage

Matthew 5:13-14.

It is very important to connect evangelism with involvement in issues affecting the society, and a major issue is corruption.

Bishop Dr. Mark Kariuki:
General Overseer - Deliverance Church, Board Vice Chairman, Evangelical Alliance
of Kenya

12 RESPONDING TO CORRUPTION: CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS



A. Introduction

Setbacks are set-ups for comebacks. Good things don't always come easily. Whereas a corruption free society is highly desirable, the reality is that the road to its achievement abounds with challenges. It is important to appreciate these challenges if we are to effectively and successfully confront corruption in our society. It is equally important to appreciate that such efforts would not be in vain, because there are great benefits to both individuals and societies in dealing with corruption.

B. Challenges of Dealing with Corruption: 1Kings 19:1-18

1. From this passage, outline the events that led Elijah to flee to the cave
2.
 - a. Despite the courage of Elijah to declare the message, what challenges do you think he faced in the process of doing that?
 - b. Why do you think Elijah asked God to take his life?
3. Share with your group some personal experiences when you have felt like Elijah? What did you do?

C. Benefits of Preventing Corruption: Esther 6:1-14

1. Observe the sequence of events in this passage.
2.
 - a. What would have been the other possible scenarios in this story had Haman not uncovered the plot against the King?
 - b. Consequently, apart from the benefits to himself, what other benefits did Mordecai's action bring to the country?
3.
 - a. From this example, what benefits do you think preventing corruption would bring to the individual concerned and to society as a whole?
 - b. How do you think "whistle blowing" can enhance the prevention of corruption in our society?

D. Memory Verse: 1 Kings 19:14

He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

E. Point of Reflection

Look again at the commitments you have made in the course of these studies. List some challenges you have already faced or are likely to face in the course of implementing them. What have been/will be the rewards? Pray about the challenges and thank God for the rewards.

Additional Passages

2 Samuel 11 and 12.

Thousands of people struggle daily with unemployment and poverty in our nation today due to insensitivity of a few who practice corruption.

This guide is a call to Christians to believe they can make a real difference and start to take positive action.

*Bishop Arthur Gitonga
Evangelical Alliance of
Kenya Board Member*

The Apostle James called upon us to live our faith, and not just to declare it from the mountain tops. We are called upon to develop maturity and strong character by bravely persevering when we are visited by trials and temptation... We are exhorted not to put our store in material wealth, but in the more enduring store of God's blessings.

Hon. Justice (Rtd.) Aaron G. Ringera, EBS
Director and Chief Executive
Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission

A timely and significant contribution, a challenge which inspires us to work together to fight corruption. The war can be won!

Bishop Dr. Bonifas Adoyo
Bishop- Christ Is the Answer Ministries-CITAM,
Board Chairman, Evangelical Alliance of Kenya

I knew from the first meeting with Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission officers that our partnership would be more than just a cohort of like-minded leaders who hope to make a difference in our country. It has grown into one of the most embracing partnerships representing the government and the Church in Kenya.

Rev. Dr. Wellington Mutiso
Senior Pastor First Baptist Church – Athi River
General Secretary, Evangelical Alliance of Kenya.

The guide will go a long way to change the mind set of Christian Students in our Universities and Colleges in a unique way to lasting change for the better.

Mr. Simon Masibo
General Secretary, Fellowship of Christian Unions –FOCUS
Evangelical Alliance of Kenya Board Member



P O BOX 781-00618 Ruaraka
TEL: 8562022
E-MAIL: focus@focuskenya.org



P O BOX 20571 00 100 Nairobi
TEL: 2721269
E-MAIL: secretariat@eakkenya.org



KENYA ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 61130-00200 NAIROBI
TEL: 2717468, 2717318 E-MAIL: kacc@integrity.go.ke
Website: www.kacc.go.ke