

**OPENING PRAYER:** Together, pray, “Call Us Forth. ”

**WATCH:** “CST 101: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable” on YouTube.

**PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE:**

Read this Scripture passage twice.

Invite participants to reflect silently after it is read the first time.

“Then the king will say[,] . . .



“The poor not only suffer injustice, they also struggle against it! . . . [Solidarity] means that the lives of all take priority over the appropriation of goods by a few. It also means fighting against the structural causes of poverty and inequality; of the lack of work, land and housing; and of the denial of social and labor rights. It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of money: forced dislocation, painful emigration, human trafficking, drugs, war, violence and all those realities that many of you suffer and that we are all called upon to transform . . . Love for the poor is at the center of the Gospel.”

—Pope Francis, [Address to the First World Meeting of Popular Movements](#)

## DISCUSS:

How does Jesus’ own poverty, and the witness of his encounter with the “other,” challenge you?

When have you felt inspired by the work of people living in poverty to transform the causes of injustice? How can you join or support their efforts?

## ACT:

Read the [stories](#) of Syrian refugees who have fled to Europe in search of a better life and learn about Catholic Relief Services’ response with the support of Catholics in the United States. How are you called to stand with those who are vulnerable?

## SEND:

We ask for the intercession of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, that we might never fail to recognize and encounter Jesus in what she called his “most distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor.” Amen

Visit [crs.org/CST-101](http://crs.org/CST-101) or [wearesaltandlight.org/CST101](http://wearesaltandlight.org/CST101) for all CST 101 resources, including the prayers, stories and videos linked to in these discussion guides.