

THE BIBLE ON WIDOWHOOD

Read the discussion questions and relate them to the following Bible passages about widowhood

<u>LAMENTATIONS 1:1</u>	Scripture recognizes the sorrow of widowhood as she compares it with the loss of Jerusalem.
<u>JAMES 1:27</u>	It's pure worship of God to care for widows and orphans when it's done out of proper motives.
<u>PSALM 146:9 &</u>	.
<u>DEUT.10:17-18</u>	God takes care of widows and orphans
<u>JER.49:11</u>	"Your widows can depend on Me."
<u>ISAIAH 1:17</u>	We should defend widows.
<u>ACTS 36 9</u>	Tabitha, a good woman who helped widows is raised from death.
<u>JER.7:6-7 & 22:3 &</u>	
<u>ZECH 7:10</u>	Don't oppress widows, orphans and aliens
<u>MAL. 3:5</u>	The Lord will testify against those who cheat widows.
<u>MK.12:40 & LK.20:47</u>	Scribes who act holy yet swallow a widow's property.
<u>DEUT.27:19</u>	A curse on those who violate widow's rights.
<u>EX.22:20-24</u>	Widow who is wronged cries out to God.
<u>DEUT. 24:17-22</u>	Gleaning right of widows.
<u>DEUT. 14:28-29 &</u>	
<u>26:12-13</u>	Widows share in the tithes
<u>LEV.22:13</u>	Widowed daughter of priest may eat consecrated food.
<u>ACTS 6:1-6</u>	Early Church had special people to care for widows.
<u>1 TIM 5:3-16</u>	Consecrated widowhood is a ministry in early Church.
<u>1 KINGS 17:9-24</u>	Story of Elijah and the widow.
<u>LK.4:25-26</u>	Which widow did God choose?
<u>LK. 17 7:11</u>	Widow's son raised from death by Jesus.
<u>2 KINGS 4:1-7</u>	A miracle to free widow from debt.
<u>RUTH 2</u>	Ruth exercises her rights as a widow.
<u>LK. 2:36-38</u>	The widow Anna prophesies about Jesus.
<u>LK. 18:1-8</u>	Jesus tells story of the widow and the Judge.
<u>LK.21:1-4 &</u>	
<u>MK.12:41-44</u>	The widow's mite.
<u>LK.20:27-34</u>	
<u>& MK.12:18-26</u>	Who's wife is she in resurrection?
<u>1 COR.13:13</u>	True love is eternal.
<u>1 COR.7:39-40</u>	Widow free to marry a Christian man.
<u>1 COR.7:8-9</u>	Paul's advise to widows.
<u>ROMANS 7:1-3</u>	Released from law of marriage.
<u>LEV. 21:14</u>	Priests not to marry a widow. Why, do you suppose?
<u>RUTH 1:8-9</u>	Three widows. Ruth remarries and becomes ancestor of Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which widow in the Bible impresses you most? Why?
2. In what ways can a widow be of special service to God's people?
3. What is the setting for each passage? Who's talking to whom?
4. What responsibilities, if any, does the Church have for widows?
5. What responsibilities does family have for widows?
6. What responsibilities, if any, does society have for widows?
7. Discuss: With the death of her husband a woman must also die in the sense that she must let go from her old life in order to rise to her new calling as a Christian widow. Compare to Romans 7:4.
8. What other groups are widows listed with?
9. In what ways is a widow more free to do God's work.
10. In what ways can widows help each other?
11. What can we do to help a new widow?
12. Although physical marriage ends with death, a love relationship does not. How do you think this love should express itself, and how shouldn't it? ?