

Discussion Questions
for
“A Fair Balance: Reducing Inequality in the United States and around the World”

1. Describe inequality in your own words. Have you seen evidence of rising inequality in the United States? Globally? Are you or members of your family experiencing or observing this?
2. What is the impact of poverty on people’s lives?
3. What is the impact of inequality on people’s lives? Does it seem reasonable that inequality could have such a wide-reaching impact, affecting the rich, poor, and middle class?
4. Several measures were suggested for reducing inequality including raising wages and salaries for the lowest paid workers, job creation, broader and more equitable provision of health insurance and pensions, and a fairer tax structure. Which of these would you support?
5. In your view, how would God want us to share our resources? What is a “fair balance” between one person’s need and another’s abundance?
6. Can we rely on voluntary actions and charity to bring about the sharing necessary for a fair balance? Or will public programs funded through taxes also be necessary?
7. The U.S. constitution and Bill of Rights guarantee many political and civil rights to all citizens of the U.S. Should people also have economic rights, the right to necessities like food, shelter, quality education and health care, higher education? If so, how can we best guarantee these rights?