

Widows

- In both the Old and New Testament, God and His people show a significant concern for the vulnerable groups, especially widows.
- **God's personal relationship with and actions toward widows in the Old Testament:**
 - He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. (Deuteronomy 10:18 NLT)
 - God in His holy dwelling is a father of the fatherless and a champion of widows. (Psalm 68:5 HCSB)
 - He protects the strangers who live in our land; he helps widows and orphans, but takes the wicked to their ruin. (Psalms 146:9 GNT)
 - The LORD tears down the house of the proud, but he protects the property of widows. (Proverbs 15:25 NLT)
 - Your widows, too, can depend on me [God] for help. (Jeremiah 49:11b NLT)
- **The church's relationship with and actions toward widows in the New Testament:**
 - One of the first things we learn about the first-generation church is that they took care of Jewish and non-Jewish widows:
 - But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. (Acts 6:1 NLT)
 - Even though there were problems with the logistics of distributing food, this story still tells us that the first generation of the church prioritized this at the same time that they saw dramatic miracles and salvations.
 - Paul helps Timothy figure out which widows in his church should remarry, which should be supported by their families, and which the church should take care of. Paul tells him: "Take care of any widow who has no one else to care for her." (1 Timothy 5:3 NLT)
 - The most religious activity we can do is to identify distressed orphans and widows and care for them: "Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." (James 1:27 NLT)

Demystifying **Biblical Justice**

- God introduces Himself in the Old Testament as a champion of and helper to widows, deeply invested in ensuring that they receive justice.
- The first generation of the church reflected this part of God's character into the world without a new law code that told them they had to.
- Miracles, salvations, and the spread of the gospel happened simultaneously with valuing vulnerable widows.