

What Does Your Faith's Scripture Say?

As all levels of government turn more and more responsibility for providing human services over to the religious and charity sector, it is becoming increasingly important that this shift signifies more than just a different address and different pictures on the wall. This improvement should represent a shift from efforts that are not Scripture-based to services that are Scripture-based.

To achieve that, it is vital that faith-based service providers determine what their God demands of them when they serve the needy. To aid groups in making that determination, we have assembled collections of what all the world's major faiths' guiding Scripture says on the subjects, and have posted those collections on our Web site at www.wmgleaners.org.

We urge you to look into what your faith's Scripture admonishes on the following subjects:

1 How often should you provide help to someone who asks for it?

- Once a month
- Three times a year
- As often as they ask for it

2 What attitude are you called to have in your dealings with the needy?

- Are you to be their master? (That is, do you enforce rules on them that they have no choice but to submit to in order to get help.)
- Are you to be their servant? (That is, do you invite them to help themselves to help on their terms.)

3 What criteria and procedures does Scripture permit you to use in either approving or disapproving their request for help?

- Make them prove their need and worthiness
- Check with other agencies to make sure they aren't abusers
- Help them just because they asked

4 How much food should you give them?

- A set amount
- As much as *you* think they need
- As much as *they* think they need

5 What types of food should you offer them?

- What you think people like them should eat
- A free choice of whatever is available

6 What expectations or conditions should you place on their obtaining subsequent or ongoing help?

- They must be actively looking for a job
- They should be required to attend specific religious services
- They should attend cooking or budgeting classes

Please review what your faith's Scripture says about helping the needy and revise your pantry's policies and procedures as needed. When you are doing God's work you really need to do it God's way!