

Jubilee Workbook: Introduction

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As we seek to deepen and widen the movement for Sabbath economics – Jubilee spirituality, we look for appropriate pedagogical tools and models. This is not to reduce pedagogy to method but rather to discover and develop a pedagogy that is both the means and the end of the Sabbath-Jubilee vision.

We have been using what has been called a **hermeneutical** process, in which we seek to hold together social analysis of today's world, biblical faith, and responsible discipleship in an unending **circulation**, with each of these three dimensions of critical reflection in tension with the other two. All three must be Spirit led; all three require commitment to praxis; all three utilize Sabbath-Jubilee lenses to perceive oppression and seek liberation.

Liberation can be spelled out in many ways. Walter Brueggemann summarizes exodus liberation as critique of the dominant ideology (unmasking the status quo), public processing of pain (refusing to accept the status quo), and release of a new social imagination (identifying and celebrating alternatives). All three are subversive of dominant systems of domination.

This means taking **options** for, with, and by those who are marginalized: the economically poor, those marginalized by gender or sexual orientation, racial-ethnic sectors discriminated against, others who endure similar marginalization, and nature.

It is also closely related to **contextualization** or incarnation within these social realities to struggle for full humanity, which means solidarity with all who struggle for full humanity, dignity, and abundant life.

This process is often referred to as **popular education**, in which people themselves become the subjects of their own history in the face of any and all exclusion and oppression.

Such education by and with the excluded and oppressed will necessarily be **holistic**, engaging mind, heart, and body, engaging the political body and the body politic, engaging the whole person at every stage of his and her self-discovery, engaging the community in a process of deconstruction and construction of its life culture.

The center of this process has been called an **epistemological rupture** that requires cleaning our lenses on the inside (this world) and on the outside (the biblical message) in order to see clearly and enact God's word and God's will for humankind and for all creation.

Sabbath-Jubilee pedagogy will of necessity utilize multiple models and methods in order to be accessible to each person and community within their own cultural and experiential matrix. In Paulo Freire's terms we are all educates and educators in pursuit of wholeness, shalom, Jubilee. The following worksheets are intended to serve this pedagogy and this movement, and may be reproduced with credit to the authors.

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Ross and Gloria Kinsler, authors of *The Biblical Jubilee and the Struggle for Life: An Invitation to Personal, Ecclesial, and Social Transformation* (Orbis Books: 1999), are members of the **Sabbath Economics Collaborative**.