

Zero tolerance for corruption



PRAY

Lord, you fell victim yourself to corrupt rulers and unjust judges. Amidst many lies, you have spoken no false word. You preferred to go to the cross rather than buy into falsehoods. Lord, see to us! The cancer of corruption has not stopped before any state, not even before the Church. Will we be able to resist? Lord, we do not know that. Protect us against the demon of corruption taking root in us. And protect us against pointing our finger at others. Amen.



CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.
Short silence.

Exchange: *What particularly appealed to you?*



STUDY

1. Read DOCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



DISCUSS

Also discuss your own questions on this topic!

Treasure Book: *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.

#DOCATChallenge: *Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.*



Gen 27.33

With that, Isaac was seized with a fit of uncontrollable trembling. "Who was it, then," he asked, "that hunted game and brought it to me? I finished eating it just before you came, and I blessed him. Now he must remain blessed!"

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What is corruption and what can one do about it?

Corruption — the misuse of the power and resources one has been entrusted with for personal advantage — is a cancer that destroys society from within. Those who have no power are deprived of access to benefits they are entitled to, e.g., security, education, health care, work, advancement. Often victims become perpetrators when they succeed in acquiring some small measure of power themselves. Forms of corruption include bribery, embezzlement, cronyism, misuse of resources, and much more. Corruption is widespread and has devastating consequences. Even Church institutions are not free from "the sweet poison of corruption" (Pope Francis). Corruption contradicts the fundamental principles of social justice; it cheats people out of their natural rights; it harms the common good and tramples on the dignity of the human person. It is everyone's responsibility to fight against corruption, but especially those in politics. A first protection against corruption is maximum transparency in the distribution of resources and opportunities. Christian persons and communities living free of corruption in the midst of corrupt societies can be a leaven for the renewal of the whole society.

1. What does Pope Francis mean by the statement: „Corruption stinks“? Do you have any personal experience of this?
2. You know all four principles of the social doctrine (human dignity, common good, solidarity, subsidiarity). How does corruption contradict these principles?
3. Why are even poor people, who are victims of state corruption, oddly enough, defending themselves against the „zero tolerance for corruption“?
4. Why are you predestined as Christians to be pioneers of corruption-free societies? How can you build „islands of non-corruption“ under corrupt circumstances?

Become informed about the international anti-corruption organization Transparency International. Pick up a fact that impressed you most. Share this at your next meeting.

Do you take on this challenge?

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