**Big Questions**

1. Is justice for all possible? Or will injustice always exist?
2. What do we expect from the people we lead?
3. What do we expect from our own leaders?
4. Why do some have so much and some have so little?
5. Is ending poverty possible?
6. What are the causes of poverty?
7. Why do racial disparities exist and how do we change them?

**Opening Exercise/Activity**

With both of the options below, the activity can be done first individually where each participant takes some time to reflect individually and then it can stop there or be shared in a pair or shared in the larger group.

*Option 1*

Think of a time in your life when someone said something about poverty or people in need that bothered you. Why did it bother you? How did you react?

*Option 2*

Consider the following questions and write or draw your responses: 1) What is poverty? 2) What causes poverty?

**Clarification Questions**

1. What stood out?
2. What words or phrases were used that stood out?
3. After reading the first full paragraph of his speech, what are Johnson's priorities as president? How are they similar or different than today’s priorities?
4. President Johnson mentioned the phrase “needless and senseless quarrels”. Do these quarrels still exist?
5. What does President Johnson say are not the causes of poverty?
6. What does President Johnson say are the causes of poverty?
7. What does President Jonson say we must do to address poverty?
8. What are the “basic hopes” that Johnson lays out? Do you think it is possible to help each and every American fulfill them?
9. What about Johnson's speech surprised you? Alarmed you?

**Significance and Implication Questions**

1. What do you know about poverty today?
2. What kind of people “live on the outskirts of hope” today? Do you think that it is possible to help them?
3. How to you define poverty?
4. What do you think causes poverty?
5. What “weapons” do you think will be required in this next decade to fight poverty?
6. What ideas do you have to address poverty in the next 10 years?
7. What will happen if we do the status quo or continue doing what we are doing now?
8. What role should government play in addressing poverty?
9. Are there other groups, beyond government, that need to increase involvement and role in the “war on poverty”?
10. Is justice for all possible? Or will injustice always exist?
11. What do we expect from the people we lead?
12. What do we expect from our own leaders?
13. Why do some have so much and some have so little?
14. Do you think we are still “fighting a war on poverty”?
15. Do you believe winning is possible?
16. What can we do to reduce the “quarrels” that exist today? What responsibility do we have as leaders to address?
17. Are Americans standing still in the war on poverty or are we advocating for change? Based on your response, what evidence do we see today that this is happening?

**Closing Exercise/Activity**

The below 3 options can be done 1) individually only; or 2) individually and then share in a pair, small group or large group:

*Option 1*

Identify one thing you could be doing that you are not doing right now to fight poverty in your community or country.

*Option 2*

What do you think it will take to address poverty in our country today? What ideas do you have to address poverty in the next 10 years?

Option 3

What would you like to learn more about as it relates to poverty – either what it is or what causes it?