POVERTY
USA
GAME SHOW EDITION
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The number of people living in poverty in the United States decreased from 2009 to 2014.
This is **FALSE**. In 2014, 47 million people were in poverty, up from 44 million in 2009. Since 2007, the poverty rate increased from 12.5% to 15% in 2014.

The number of families in poverty is decreasing.
This is **FALSE**. The number of families in poverty is increasing.

In 2014, 9.5 million lived in poverty, as compared to 8 million in 2007.

Since its inception in 1946, the National School Lunch Program has served over 200 billion lunches to school children in need.
This is TRUE. In 2012 and 2013 alone, close to 32 million children each day got their lunch through the National School Lunch Program.

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in over 100,000 schools and child care institutions. Children living in families at or near the poverty line are eligible for free or reduced-price meals (no more than 40¢).
A family of four, consisting of two adults and two children, is considered to be living in poverty if it is earning less than $35,000 a year.
This is **FALSE**. The federal “poverty threshold” in 2014 for a family of four with two children 18 or younger is $24,000.

However, poverty experts estimate that it takes an income of about twice the official poverty level, depending on locality, to cover the cost of a family's day-to-day needs and achieve basic economic security.

Source: Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014, U.S. Census Bureau, pg. 43
Most people who are living in poverty are White.
This is True.

In 2014, 20 million white Americans lived below the poverty line, compared to the 11 million African Americans. In the same year, there were 13 million Hispanics (of any race) and 2 million Asian Americans living in poverty.

The current federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour is a livable wage for a single parent with one child.
This is **FALSE**. A single parent with one child working at this minimum wage full-time every week of the year ($7.25 \times 40 \text{ hours} \times 52 \text{ weeks}) would earn $15,080 before any deductions or taxes. This is $1,237 below the poverty threshold of $16,317.

Source: Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014, U.S. Census Bureau, pg. 43
The poverty rate among the elderly in the United States is higher than that of any other age group.
This is **FALSE**. Although the poverty rate for elderly people in the U.S. (people 65 and older) has gone from 9% in 2009 to 10% in 2014, the poverty rate of children under the age of 18 is double, at 21% in 2014.

If every person in the United States that is living in poverty resided in the same state, it would be the most populous state in the nation – the state of Poverty, USA.
This is **TRUE**. The current population of Poverty USA is larger than the populations of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming... combined.

One of every five children in the U.S. lives in poverty.
This is **TRUE**. In the year 2014, 15.5 million, or 1 out of 5, children lived in poverty. Children in the U.S. have higher poverty rates than in many other developed nations.

In 2014, children represented 33% of the people in poverty in the U.S., but only 23% of the population.

For the most part, people living in poverty do not work.
This is **FALSE**.

10 million workers in 2014 lived below the poverty line.
In a 3-year period, almost 1 out of every 3 Americans spend an extended amount of time in poverty.
This is **TRUE**.

For example, from 2009-2011, 32% of all people in the U.S. lived in poverty for at least two consecutive months.

Source: Dynamics of Economic Well-being: Poverty, 2009-2011. U.S. Census Bureau, pg. 17
Most of those who live in poverty would not escape if they doubled their income.
This is **FALSE**.

45% of those who live in poverty would still be in poverty even if they doubled their income. This kind of poverty is called deep poverty. In 2014, about 21 million people with families in the U.S. lived in deep poverty.

QUESTION 3-30

FREEBIE!
ANSWER 3–30

You get a free point!
QUESTION 3-40

The amount of people living in poverty without health insurance is increasing.
This is false. The amount of uninsured people with annual incomes less than $25,000 in 2014 has decreased 4.3 percentage points from 2013.

As followers of Christ and members of the universal Church, we are all called to address poverty.
ANSWER 3–50

TRUE!