

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

This house church series is based around a resource from the Centre for Public Christianity, called “For the Love of God: The Course”. Designed for believers and sceptics alike, the course presents select scenes from the 2018 documentary “For the Love of God: How The Church Is Better And Worse Than You Ever Imagined”. It explores key biblical texts, and examines the original form of the Christian faith, allowing participants to assess the global impact of Christianity and rightly judge the mixed actions of the church through history.

To allow house churches time to cover other important aspects of house church as well as the course material, we have split each course session over two weeks.

Week 1 & 2: War and Peace

House church teaching facilitators will need:

- This house church guide.
- The “For the Love of God – The Course”, Session 1 War + Peace outline from <https://www.publicchristianity.org/episode-1-war-peace-group-resource/> (downloadable pdf and/or the online version)
- To read through the material in advance and preview the video clips
- To determine the best way of showing the video clips during house church. Either:
 - Use the clips embedded in the above web page, maximised to full screen. This will rely on the speed and quality of internet connection you will have at house church.
 - OR,
 - Download the clips in advance to your computer or device. Follow the individual links in the pdf and you will see the option to download. (The embedded files on the course resource page don’t give you the option to download them.)

Week 1: War + Peace Introduction and Part 1

Using the Session 1 War and Peace outline:

- Introduce the series based on information in the Facilitator Introduction. Note that we are splitting each session over 2 week to allow time for other house church components such as worship and prayer.
- Follow the outline for Part 1 (including the starter question) but skip the “if you have more time” video and question 3.
- When you get to Question 4, have people open their Bibles and read Romans 12:9-18.
- Ask an additional application question after question 5:
 - In what ways does your human heart struggle to live out Romans 12:9-18? Stop and pray for one another that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will be enabled to live out specific aspects of this passage in the next week.

Week 2: War + Peace Part 2

Using the Session 1 War and Peace outline:

- Follow the outline for Part 2
- When you get to Question 2, have people open their Bibles and read Luke 6:27-36
- Ask these additional application questions after question 2:
 - In what sort of situations do you struggle to have kindness and grace towards “the undeserving”? In what sort of situations do you feel personally undeserving and struggle to believe in God’s grace for you? What do you (or can you) do at these times to walk in truth instead?
- Finish with a time of prayer, including inviting the Holy Spirit to change your heart where needed and to show and empower you how to love your enemies.