

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD: Rich + Poor

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 5 & 6: Rich + Poor

House church teaching facilitators will need:

- This house church guide.
- The "For the Love of God – The Course", Session 3 Rich + Poor outline from <https://www.publicchristianity.org/episode-3-rich-poor-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 5: Rich + Poor Part 1

Using the For the Love of God Session 3 Rich + Poor outline:

- Follow the outline for Part 1 (including the starter question)
- As part of Question 1, talk about any connection with people's own church experience that may have sprung to mind during the video.
- There are a lot of Bible passages referenced. Facilitator should choose which ones (some Old Testament and New Testament) are to be read out. All will probably be too much.
- The question at the end of Part 1 asks "If the Creator of the universe thinks of every human being as his "offspring"—regardless of their capacities or usefulness—what does that say about the intrinsic value of those around us?" As well as answering that question, also talk about what living that out looks like (or could look like) for people in your group.

Week 4: Rich + Poor Part 2

Using the For the Love of God Session 3 Rich + Poor outline:

- Follow the outline for Part 2 (*When Question 1 refers to "the first clip" they mean the first one in part 1.*)
- When you get to the Bible passages, have people open their bibles and read them out.
- Question 2 talks about being motivated by "fear of punishment or hope of reward". If that doesn't resonate for your group, don't spend too much time on it. ("Guilt" may be another motivator to explore.)
- If you have time for another video plus reflection, watch either "Treasures on earth: The medieval papacy and its opponents" (4 min) or "The Origins of Western Health Care" (6:33min) in the Extras section.

In light of the video content, ask people to reflect on the countercultural aspects of their lives that stem from being a follower of Jesus. Eg. "In what way is your attitude to wealth, power, success or health shaped by your Christian faith?" Pray that our lives will sing of Jesus. (*Song suggestion: "Lifesong" by Casting Crowns*)