

Consumer culture: I want to live simply ...but I like stuff

opening our eyes 

Reflect on the previous session on hospitality and share what you've been thinking about or doing since then.

Warm-up question: What is your most valued possession and why?

finding our hope 

In the beginning
created the
and the

Bible discussion (20 mins):
Luke 18:18-27

The Old Testament prophets presented a vision of a world where everyone has what they need. It was a stark contrast to the survival-of-the-fittest attitude that prevailed in the surrounding culture and which we see around us today. Jesus picks up this theme, challenging the rich young man to examine his attitude to money and possessions.

Discuss:

- In what way is Jesus' challenge to the rich young ruler relevant to us today?
- In what ways have you experienced the pressures of living in a society that has shaped us to be consumers and where success is often measured in terms of material wealth?



DVD film and discussion: Session three (30 mins)

In this clip, David and Dawn Curran reflect on consumer culture in the light of their experience in Pakistan, and Shannon Hopkins reflects on the ways in which her enterprise Sweet Notions offers an alternative way of doing business. You might like to make a mental note (or jot down a reminder) of any words or ideas that you find particularly striking so you can discuss them with the group.

loving God's world 

In what practical ways are you already combating consumer culture? Are there other ways you might like to further respond? There are some suggested activities in the course guide.

For next week

Use this space to write down anything your group commits to do to prepare for the next session.

Prayer

Lord, we thank you for your gift of creativity,
for the many things that we can create, use and enjoy.

Forgive us for the times that we have consumed stuff irresponsibly,
when we have failed to realise the impact of our consumption and waste
on the lives of others and our planet.

Give us the courage to change the way that we look at all the stuff in our life,
and to place our identity, security and hope in you.

Help us to live out your alternative reality,
to create a more sustainable and just world.

Amen