


<h1>W</h1>	<h2>WEALTH &amp; POVERTY</h2>	<p><b>What's it all about? Money and wealth.</b></p> <p>Here we have a quick survey of different faiths and the ways they ask their followers to use their cash. Is money good or bad? Using your money for goodness is a Christian principle: if you love it too much then it can replace God in your life. You should use your cash for the benefit of others, not worship your bank balance.</p> <p>Sikhs follow the teaching of compassion, so charity matters a lot. The Sikh gurus teach hard work and generosity instead of selfishness.</p> <p>In Hindu community, earning wealth honestly is good, and is one of the key stages of life. Worshipping generous Lakshmi might bring blessings of money, but then what you do with it matters.</p> <p>The Buddha warned that money in showers won't make you happy. Enlightenment does that!</p> <p>Islam also teaches Zakah, as one of the 5 pillars: giving 2½% of savings each year.</p> <p>Using it well, money does good, but watch out for the danger of it capturing your heart! Greed is a sin in all these religions, but money well used can be a blessing.</p>
	<p>Religious teaching often points out that grabbing money looks like the way to be happy, but it is a lie: all religions suggest true fulfilment in life is not just about how much cash you stash.</p>	
<p>Which religions and beliefs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sikhs,</li> <li>• Hindus,</li> <li>• Buddhists</li> <li>• Muslims</li> <li>• Christians</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What matters most – money or spiritual life?</li> <li>• Does money buy happiness? If not, where do we find deeper fulfilment in life?</li> <li>• Is money a temptation?</li> <li>• Why does greed for money seem to be such a big part of human life today when we all agree with John Lennon – he says he doesn't care too much for money, as it can't buy him love?</li> </ul> <p><b>Clip available here:</b>  <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks3-a-z-of-religion-and-beliefs-w-is-for-wealth/zkwcwty">www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks3-a-z-of-religion-and-beliefs-w-is-for-wealth/zkwcwty</a></p>	<p><b>Classroom or homework task: The 1%.</b></p> <p>A&gt; The richest 1% of the world people own half of the wealth. The other 99% share the other half. Is there any religion on earth that would say this was OK? But the richest sometimes give away the most: Bill and Melinda Gates have given more than \$28 billion to charity since 2000. Does that make it OK to be rich? If you were president of the world for one day, how would you share the money out?</p> <p>B&gt; <b>Think about the teachings of a religious figure you know</b> – Jesus Christ, Gandhi, Prophet Muhammad [PBUH], Guru Nanak or the Buddha. If everyone followed their example with regard to money, how would the world change?</p> <p>C&gt; <b>Imagine this experiment.</b> Everyone comes into the class and the teacher gives out 30 envelopes. Each contains a few coins, 50p or so. One also contains a £20 note. Teacher says: I'm giving you some money. I'd like you all to give it to charity but keep it if you want. Everyone opens their envelope. Which person will find it hardest to give the contents away? Why? Is this like real life?</p> <p><b>Suggested outcomes: students can...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Give an informed account of a variety of examples of religious teaching about money</li> <li>▪ Give reasons for their views about the place of greed, dishonesty and selfishness in relation to money in our society</li> <li>▪ Handle information and ideas effectively to give their views about the fact that 1% of the world owns 50% of the money.</li> </ul>

## W is for Wealth + Poverty

The richest 1% of the world people own more than half of the wealth. The other 99% share the other half. How do you think this fact should change?

Make a list of the facts about different religions and wealth + poverty from the programme: can you get 6?

Think about the teachings of a religious figure you know – Jesus Christ, Gandhi, Prophet Muhammad [PBUH], Guru Nanak or the Buddha. If everyone followed their example with regard to money, how would the world change?

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### **“Money can't buy me love.”**

What is your own attitude to money and wealth? Do you want to be rich, or to be generous?

Think of the most generous people you know or have heard of. What makes it possible for some people to be generous? How can we all be more generous? Will that help deal with poverty, or is it mostly governments who can do that?