



## PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR



- Ask for 10 volunteers to stand in a line. You will need 10 equal sized chocolate bars (try to get Fairtrade; they don't need to be big bars).
- This line represents the entire population of the UK.
- These 10 chocolate bars represent all of the wealth of the UK.
- Ask the group how the wealth should be divided up amongst the group and pass out the chocolate - don't eat it!

■ Then ask how they think it is divided up and redistribute the chocolate.

■ Then show them how it is actually divided:

- 4 people get one bar to share
- 2 people get one bar to share
- 2 people get 2 bars to share (or one each!)
- 1 person gets 2 bars
- 1 person gets 4 bars

Ask people if they think it's fair.

■ The richest 10% have 43% of the UK's wealth; and actually, the richest 1% have most of it.

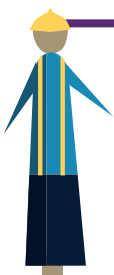
■ In actual fact, the poorest 20% (2 of the 4 people) only actually have one tiny part of that chocolate bar.

- In the UK, 4.3 million children were living below the breadline before the pandemic, almost one in three children. At least 120 thousand more children fell into poverty during the pandemic.
- Between April 2021 and March 2022, food banks in the Trussell Trust's UK wide network distributed over 2.1 million emergency food parcels to people in crisis.
- 1 in 5 children in the UK – 2 million – live in damp, overcrowded or others inadequate houses.

■ There is real poverty all around us. One in eight people go to bed hungry every night.

■ Jesus says in the Parable of the Sheep and Goats that whenever we help someone who is hungry, thirsty, needs clothing, need shelter, is ill – we're not just helping that person, we're also helping him.

■ Remember what we did first – if we're all made in God's image and likeness, all children of God, how can we not want to do all we can to support our sisters and brothers in need, whether here in our local community, or in our worldwide community?



Source of stats (2022):

<https://www.ft.com/content/d52743ca-c669-4c71-941f-8281230a21b5>

<https://www.bigissue.com/news/social-justice/child-poverty-in-the-uk-the-definitions-details-causes-and-consequences/>

<https://www.housing.org.uk/news-and-blogs/news/1-in-5-children-need-new-home/>