

In John 10:10, Jesus spells out exactly who is responsible for the wave of destruction life can bring through debt and poverty: the thief. The thief thrives by creating brokenness and pain, but Jesus is in the business of offering us a full life in Him. Debt steals a person's joy, poverty kills a person's hope, and the thief ultimately tries to destroy lives—people we know and care for. But Jesus makes clear the reason for His very existence: that all may have life to the full and acknowledge His life.

Jesus identified the traits of the thief ahead of time to prepare us because He loves us. At CAP, we see the harrowing experiences of members of our communities, we see the poverty statistics rising year on year, and budgets just aren't increasing as fast. However, we are still as determined and compassionate as ever to serve our local areas with the good news that Jesus wants us to have life to the full. Through His Church, we want to see that ring true now more than ever.

### **Read John 10:10**

1. What is your experience of John 10:10? Have you ever felt isolated, anxious, hopeless, and experienced God bringing life into those situations? How might you use your story to help someone else?
2. What examples have you seen, or been involved with, of the Church responding to UK poverty?
3. In what ways might being part of a church community help those who are living in poverty?
4. In what ways can the promise of a new creation (a new Heaven and Earth) impact those who are experiencing poverty, debt and oppression today? How can we communicate that promise well?
5. How can churches provide a voice of hope that's sincere and caring about people's struggles in the here and now? Have you ever written to your local MP or councillor about an issue?
6. As well as individual responsibility, there is much that the people of God can do together to dismantle the systems and structures that push people into poverty and keep them trapped there. What is the role of today's Church in advocating for justice in society?
7. How do you feel God is calling you to respond to the local needs in your area, both individually and as a church?
8. What barriers and challenges do you face when thinking about helping those in need?

## Prayer Points

Please pray for the work of CAP, Guy Partridge and the team who run the Bexhill Debt Centre.

Continue to pray for the Alpha course, the leaders, people to come, those who have signed up and the courage to invite others.

Pray for changes happening in our world. Pray for wisdom, unity and the opportunity to work better together.

## Sermon Notes



# BIBLE STUDY

January 26<sup>th</sup> 2025

## Christians Against Poverty

**John 10:10**

Since CAP's services first began in West Yorkshire in 1996, they have been working tirelessly to support people to become debt free, find work, and escape poverty. Our services are now available right across England, from Cornwall to Carlisle, in hundreds of communities.

CAP's head office is in Bradford, but all our Debt Centres, Job Clubs, Life Skills groups and money coaching are run locally through churches that are already based in the community.

As a church we support and party with our local Debt Centre in Bexhill.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001