

- Jayne and Laurens did chat with the children, and Dave spoke about Foodbank earlier in the service

Poverty Recap

- Poverty is more than merely the lack of money or other material resources:
 - encompasses lacks in four basic relationships...
 - with God... (explored a little three weeks ago)
 - with ourselves... (thought about a couple of weeks back)
 - with others... (today)
 - and with the rest of creation - with stuff (think about next wee)

Created

- Value of relationship
- Nature of relationship:
 - trust, openness, no shame
- Made for connection

Fallen

- Enmity, distrust, let down, blame, lies, deceit, anger, shame...
- Man whose wife was in Ethiopia self-help group - "why are you bringing all these destitute women to my house?"
 - poverty was in the relationships, in the shame, in the status...
- Also looking to relationships to give meaning and shape to the rest of life:
 - whether romantic partnerships - Hollywood myth of romance in the movies, happily ever after...
 - or even our families - ever come across people who live their lives through the lives and achievements of others, eg their children?
 - distorting how relationships are meant to work so that they satisfy our needs rather than encourage one another to use the gifts God has given to each of us to fulfill our callings - that's poverty too!

Redeemed

- Passage in 1 John is soaked through with these perspectives:
 - God is light (1:5) - in him there is no darkness - goodness of created order
 - sin is ever present (1:8) - if we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves
 - redemption is possible, and indeed our goal as Christians (2:1)
 - practical outworking is sharpest in 2:9,10: **Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.**
- Put in the hard work of relationships:
 - of beginning to be vulnerable, of beginning to trust, of taking risks, of opening up our armour of control and fear and superiority and all the other barriers we erect to connection
 - it includes - but is not limited to - those instances of "bad behaviour", like losing our tempers or telling lies
 - but redemption shoots through our living a desire to reconnect with people at the deepest levels, as it once was in the Garden and as it will be in glory
- Practising for Glory!
- Addressing poverty is not just about money or food:
 - its about God
 - its about ourselves
 - its about how we relate to one another, about how we angle our lives towards connection
 - and it is about money and food and stuff, as we'll explore next week

