

Poverty
Leader Resource

The Richest Dog in the World **Video Guide**

The Richest Dog in the World presents, in animated form, the story of a very wealthy dog, Fido, who is challenged by a flea, Felicity. She challenges him to re-evaluate his thoughts on the plight of the world's poor and to examine ways in which we can effectively assist them to overcome their poverty and oppression. The major issues dealt with in *The Richest Dog in the World* are: aid imbalance, interdependence, empowering the poor, and limits to growth. Fido's change in attitude is achieved as he is made aware of the interdependence between rich and poor.

Listed below are some suggested questions that maybe helpful in examining the issues raised in the film. It is recommended that you adapt them to your group.

1. At first Fido is unwilling to listen to Felicity Flea. Explain why.
2. Fido epitomizes the stereotype of the rich. What is this stereotype? What are the dangers of stereotypes?
3. Fido describes poor people as "insignificant." What does this mean? Do you agree/disagree? Explain.
4. In what ways do the media suggest that poor people are helpless and dependent? Why do the media emphasize the bad news?
5. What do you understand by "interdependence?" What evidence of this do you see around you? List the Third World commodities in your own home.
6. Felicity Flea says, "Aid isn't really charity, it's a way of helping to restore the balance." Explain what she means. Give your opinion of her statement. How could Government aid be most effectively used?
7. "Simplicity" means we must "scale down our expectations" so that everyone can share in the Earth's resources.
 - a. Why did Fido fear he would starve?
 - b. What things are abundant in your life? How could you live more simply?
8. Fido says, "I've decided to give some of my money to the poor people, which is very lucky for them, isn't it!" What do you think of Fido's attitude to the poor? Is this attitude typical of most Americans?
9. Is giving money the most effective way of assisting the poor? Explain.
10. What do you think is the main responsibility of the rich towards the poor?
11. At the beginning Fido was an unhappy dog, but this had changed by the end of the film. Explain the reasons behind Fido's change of attitude.