



CONNECT WITH GOD'S  
HEART FOR THE WORLD



FREE METHODIST WORLD MISSIONS

## ICCM YOUTH RESOURCE

International Child Care Ministries

**OBJECTIVE:** To help students gain a better awareness of needs in their world and identify ways they can make a difference locally and globally.



### ACTIVITY:

**OPTION 1.** Divide your group in pairs or teams. Give each team a pen and paper, or use a whiteboard. Explain that millions in our world live in extreme poverty, earning less than \$2 a day. Ask each team to identify how they would spend \$2 a day for food. Encourage them to think about how much foods cost. For example: eggs cost approximately \$.15 each, and a slice of bread costs approximately \$.10.

### Discussion:

We're thinking about how we could spend \$2 per day on food, but for people living in extreme poverty this would include all necessities. How many goods and services do we take for granted every day? (Prompt students with ideas if needed: Think of your day; your alarm that wakes you up, the light that helps you see, a hot shower, clean water, ovens and microwaves that cook your food, machines that wash your dishes and your clothes. We rely on cell phones, Ipods, tablets, laptops, books, school supplies and consistent meals.) These would be considered luxuries in many places in our world!

**OPTION 2.** Provide a stack of newspapers or magazines, glue or tape, large paper or poster board, and scissors. Ask your students to work together to create a collage of photos of people our society would not value.

### Discussion:

How does our culture determine who has value? Often value is determined by money, beauty, fame or power. Think of some people who are valued in our society: celebrities, millionaires, politicians. (Allow your students to identify specific people.) Now tell me who or what groups are not valued in our society. (Review the collage). Often these include people who are homeless, sick or imprisoned.

**OPTION 3.** View “Philippines Ahon Project” video with your group (online at [www.childcareministries.org](http://www.childcareministries.org) and included on the resource DVD)

**Discussion:**

This video tells us a little about a group of families that live at the Butuan city dump in the Philippines. What do you think life is like for these families? Would you consider them to be “the least of these?” The narrator in this video states that “Our faith must be integrated with social justice.” What does that mean to you? How is your faith expressed in your world?



**Consider these facts about our world:**

- Extreme poverty has been defined by the United Nations as “a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education, and information.”
- This now refers to living below the international poverty line of \$1.25 per day.
- 600 million children around the world are living in extreme poverty.
- Hunger is the #1 health risk. It kills more people than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.
- Over 300 million children go to bed hungry every day.
- 783 million people do not have access to safe water.
- 22,000 children die each day due to poverty.
- The leading cause of death in children worldwide is pneumonia, but this could be prevented by adequate nutrition, immunization and better environmental factors, according to UNICEF.
- Extreme poverty contributes to slavery and trafficking. An estimated 27 million people are in slavery in our world today.
- 218 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 are involved in child labor.  
([www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org), [www.data.unicef.org](http://www.data.unicef.org) [www.unwater.org](http://www.unwater.org), [www.setfreemovement.com](http://www.setfreemovement.com))

What do you think about these numbers? Do they surprise you? Why or why not?

**Focus Verse:**

Matthew 25:34-40 – “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

How does Jesus call us to treat those who are hungry, thirsty, sick, or imprisoned? Who do you think are “the least of these?” Can you think of anyone in your community, neighborhood or school that are looked down on or considered to have little value?

Read Proverbs 19:17, Matthew 10:42, Hebrews 13:2 and 1 John 3:17. What do these verses say about providing for “the least of these?”

**Life Application:**

What can you and the youth group do to reach out to people in your community or school?

- Go to a nursing home and visit the residents. Spend time talking or take a small gift.
- Spend some time mowing the grass, raking the leaves or shoveling snow for the elderly or disabled.
- Encourage everyone in your group to contribute a few dollars and go grocery shopping for a needy family.
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen or mission.
- Visit kids in a children’s hospital. Play games, play music or put on a show for them.
- You and your youth groups could help raise money for a project in another country. Contact International Child Care Ministries to give toward a project that will benefit children around the world. Go to [www.childcareministries.org](http://www.childcareministries.org) or call 1-800-342-5531 ext. 502 for more information.
- Sponsor a child in another country for \$30 a month (\$1/day) through International Child Care Ministries to help provide food, clothing and education to “the least of these.”

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**Challenge:**

Bring a newspaper to the group. Encourage each student to tear off a small piece of the newspaper, take off their shoe, put the crumpled piece of paper in their shoe and put their shoe back on. Talk about how walking around with a piece of paper in your shoe can be uncomfortable or difficult at first. Talk about when we really engage with issues in our community and in our world, it might feel difficult or uncomfortable at first.



**Prayer:**

Dear God, please open our hearts and our eyes to “the least of these” in our school, our community, and around our world. Help us to see others with compassion as You do. Help us set aside our discomfort and seek ways to serve others, remembering that by doing so we’re serving You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.