

DO-SOMETHING @WORLD.NET



1. Can you list **everything** that's in your bedroom (even down to the last shirt)? Try it and see what you come up with (use the back of this paper if you need more room).

2. How would you complete the following sentence?
When I see someone who is really poor—

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I feel pity for them. | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't care. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I look the other way. | <input type="checkbox"/> I feel guilty. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I try to give them something. | <input type="checkbox"/> I do whatever I can to help them. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I get angry. | <input type="checkbox"/> I feel frustrated. |

3. If you had to be **one** of the following, which would it be?

- Homeless
- Physically disabled
- Mentally handicapped
- Hungry and unable to obtain food
- Old and living in a rest home
- Sick and unable to afford medical care

4. What do you think? **Y** (yes) or **N** (no)—

- ___ a. One person cannot make a difference in the world.
- ___ b. It's God's will for some people to be poor.
- ___ c. Christians should be concentrating on solving the problems of the world.
- ___ d. The care of the underprivileged in this country is the responsibility of the government.
- ___ e. If people are poor, it's their own fault.
- ___ f. If I could help someone who is poor, sick, or hungry, I would.

5. Pick one of the following Bible verses to **read and rewrite** in your own words.

Proverbs 14:31

Isaiah 3:13-15

Proverbs 21:13

THIS WEEK

There's an overwhelming number of problems in the world—everything from poverty to social injustice. Junior high and middle school kids are able to give a lot, but many don't get encouraged to get into action. This TalkSheet allows you to discuss how your kids can make a difference in the world by helping others who are less fortunate.

OPENER

Are your kids up-to-date with what's going on in the world? You may want to distribute newspapers and news magazines (such as *TIME* and *Newsweek*) and have groups find as many stories as possible about needy people and world problems. Allow five to 10 minutes for the search. Then have them share the stories. It may be helpful to have a world map there for them to see where the problem is going on. You may want to put stickers or marks on the places where the problems are taking place—both international or in the U.S.

What are the needs of others in the world?

Role-play and discuss some situations of those in need—having no fresh water, eating only rice once every-other day, battling a disease without funds to get money, not being able to worship freely, etc. How would your kids feel in these situations? How would their priorities be different? Would these situations change their understanding of God?

THE DISCUSSION, BY THE NUMBERS

1. Most of your kids could fill an entire page with their answers. Most youth in the U.S. have more than they think. In fact, kids their age in other countries would not believe how much teenagers in the U.S. have.
2. Ask for volunteers to share how they completed this sentence. Ask them to find examples of how Christ responded to someone who was very poor. Discuss how he treated them.
3. As they share, encourage the kids to talk about their answers as if they were really in that condition. How does it feel? What choices do they have? What will they do? Who will they turn to for help?
4. These statements deal with how things can and should be changed. Teenagers need to know they can make a difference, in spite of the overwhelming nature of the world's problems. Spend extra time on the last statement. Ask them for ideas to help someone less fortunate than themselves.

5. They know that God loves helping others—look at what Jesus did! What do these verses say to your group? Ask them to state one thing they've learned from the passages.

THE CLOSE

God has given everyone gifts and abilities—big and small—to help those in need. He can use each person in the room to make a difference in the world. Look at Mark 6:39-55 for example—he fed five thousand people from one small lunch! In the same way, God can and will take whatever they have to offer him and bless it. Because God sees and knows all things, even our somewhat small efforts will play a big role.

MORE

- Prayer is one way that your kids can help those in need. You may want to make a list of all the problems that were discussed in the introduction. Then pass this list out and ask your kids to pray for one world problem each day. Encourage them to keep an eye out for world news and keep it in their prayers. For the latest world news, check out www.cnn.com or www.nbc.com.
- As a group, sponsor a needy child through an Christian organization. There are several organizations, including World Vision (www.wvi.org) or Compassion International (www.ci.org). By doing small fundraisers or pooling their money, your group will be able to help a child in need and experience first-hand how to support someone in need.
- Dare your kids to get out there and do something! With your group, plan a service project or outreach to help those in need. A useful resource for planning is the *Ideas Library: Camps, Retreats, Missions & Service Ideas* (Youth Specialties).