

ART ACTIVITY

Divide 6 volunteers into 3 groups:

- **First represents 1st world countries (15% of world's population);** USA, England, Japan – picture template and brown bag with many colorful markers
- **Second represents 2nd world countries (30% of world's population);** Israel, Spain – picture template and brown bag with 3 dark colored markers
- **Third represents 3rd world countries (55% of world's population);** Zambia, Honduras, India – picture template and brown bag with 1 black marker

Provide each group with a holiday themed template and ask them to make a colorful picture with the supplies in their bags. The volunteers are not aware of the supplies in the other groups. While the children are working on their project, share stats with the rest of the kids:

As inhabitants of a **First World Country** (USA, Canada, England, Japan, France, Sweden):

- You receive well over 130% of your daily minimum requirements of food consumption. This can lead to health problems such as heart disease and diabetes – 2 leading causes of death in USA.
- Your children are healthy. The infant mortality rate is very low in your country as compared to the rest of the world.
- Millions of people in your country live below the poverty line – most are women and children.
- Your government has a multi-billion dollar defense budget.

As inhabitants of a **Second World Country** (Israel, Argentina, Korea, Spain, Poland):

- Your country has a smaller middle class than First World Countries.
- If you are a wealthy person, you are probably very wealthy in comparison with the rest of the population.
- The infant mortality rate is 8 times higher in your country than the First World.
- You expect to live only until age 61, compared to the life expectancy of 76 years in the First World Countries.
- The debt burden your country faces is crippling your economy.

As inhabitants of a **Third World Country** (Zambia, India, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti)

- You represent the majority of people in the world. Roughly, 55% of the world's population has an average income between \$60-\$440 per year.
- The likelihood that you live in poverty is high. Vast majority of population in 3rd World Countries lives below the poverty line.
- You are frequently hungry.
- You are either a landless laborer or a peasant who must pay rent for the land you farm.
- If you are a peasant, you pay rent by giving the landlord as much as 75% of your harvest – leaving you and your family with less than what you need to make it through the year.
- The debt that your government has accrued makes your problems worse.

News Alert: Breaking news...The people in Zambia (group #3) and Israel (group #2) are having difficulty completing their projects. Zambia doesn't have the tools they need and Israel has only a limited supply. When people in the 1st World Country have been made AWARE of the needs of the other countries, what can we do? **Share your supplies!**

Possible Discussion Questions

Note: Follow-up discussion is important. Make sure you allow enough time for people to talk about what they experienced, learned and observed.

1. For the 1st world group, how does it feel to have so much food, especially when your neighboring countries do not?
2. For the 3rd world group, how do you feel about the people in the other groups?
3. For 2nd world group, how do you feel about the people in the other groups? What might be preventing you from achieving a better standard of living?
4. If you lived in poverty, what are some things you may not have besides food? (Examples: movies, flush toilets, a doctor nearby, police protection, running water) How would poverty differ in countries like the United States, Angola, Peru, or Bangladesh?
5. Has anyone had a personal experience with witnessing poverty in the United States or in a visit to a 3rd world country that they would like to share? How do the personal choices we as Americans make impact this unbalanced world?
6. What might we do personally, as students, as church members, as citizens, to bring about a more equitable and balanced world?

We can: 1. Do nothing & forget about it

2. Take action of prayer, sacrifice, or donation, one time only.

3. Make a commitment to ongoing efforts of prayer, personal sacrifice, and financial contributions.

#3 – This is what we are called by God to do. In other words, our mission is a call to live our faith every hour of every day; to be a living example of the greatest missionary – Jesus Christ!

End activity with a mission prayer...

Dear God, we pray for missionaries who invite young people around the world to follow Jesus and we ask You to bless the children of the world. We know that children in so many places are suffering. In Your love, help people of all countries live together as one family, so that children may grow up in justice and peace. Help all people to be compassionate and loving so that each child may be fed, sheltered, healthy and able to go to school. May children who have no families be cared for by people filled with love. We offer this prayer in union with the Holy Spirit in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.