

## **Nine Week Mini-Lesson Overview and Outline (Faith-Based)**

The “9-week mini-project outline” is designed to engage students in meaningful activities that focus on issues children face around the globe, like hunger and lack of clean water/resources.

**Goal:** The lessons are designed to inspire children to **action** (philanthropy) and should **culminate in a project of some type**, such as: a fundraiser, learning event, PBL fair, local outreach, food drive, etc.



Ultimately, we want kids to know they can make a difference by helping other children in a practical way. These lessons are designed for minor prep time with major impact.

**Options:** Standard and Faith-Based options can be used in a variety of ways:

- Classroom - The lessons are designed for a 30-minute period and can be done in a 9-week time frame or spread out over a school year
- Clubs/Service Organizations/Community Programs – The lessons can be taught as stand-alone activities or used as a unit to develop a service project
- Chapel/Sunday School/Youth Group/Vacation Bible School – the Faith-Based lesson portion can be taught to a larger group of students followed by activities done in small group settings

**Preparation:** The lessons can incorporate interactions with Feed the Hungry Staff and a specific Partner School (schools served by Feed the Hungry where children receive hot, nutritious meals during their school day). To discuss options, such as personal letter writing/video/skype calls, fund-raising or the collection of school supplies, **please e-mail Laura Baughman at [lbaughman@feedthehungry.org](mailto:lbaughman@feedthehungry.org)**

**\*NOTE: If you choose to engage with a Partner School and wish to have a skype/face time call, FTH staff needs to know this at least ONE MONTH in advance in order to coordinate schedules and wifi availability with overseas partners.**

**Week 1:** Introduction to Feed the Hungry – Who is Feed the Hungry and What Can I Do to Help?

- Choose one option to introduce your group to Feed the Hungry
  - PowerPoint slide show with information about the organization
  - Skype call with FTH Staff introducing the ministry\*\*
  - Video Introduction with Discussion Questions
- Share your FTH Project idea

**Week 2:** Hunger Awareness –Empty Hands and Empty Bellies

**Matthew 14:13-21 - Jesus feeding the 5,000**

- Understand the concept of world hunger
- Represent hunger through an art project/hands-on activity

**Week 3:** Water Transportation – Where’s My Water?

**Luke 6:20-21, “Looking at his disciples, he said: ‘Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.**

**Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.’”**

- Understand water scarcity and how most of the world lives with very little water
- Experience the job of water transport if you were a child living without a source of clean/accessible water

**Week 4:** Hello From My Home Country - Personalized Letter and/or Video

**Hebrews 10:24, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,”**

- Connect with students in another country through writing and receiving a personal letter and/or creating a “Hello” video

**Week 5:** Fun and Games – Trash is Treasure

**1 Peter 4:10 “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”**

- Create a toy from recycled materials and trash
  - Make your own soccer ball from the discarded materials/garbage around you (One 20 minute lesson, additional 45 minute play time)
  - Create a mancala board from a discarded egg carton and beads/rocks (Three 45-60 minute lessons)
  - Create “trash” toys from recycled pop bottles (One 45-60 minute lesson)

**Week 6: Do I Have to Go to School? Education vs Work**

**Colossians 3:23a** “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart...”

- Understand how an education can help children rise above poverty
- Participate in a “food buying” game that demonstrates why a meal at school could mean a better education

**Week 7: Shelter Awareness – Homelessness worldwide**

**John 14:2-3**, “In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going away to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am.”

**Luke 9:58**, “And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’”

- Learn about global homelessness and types of homes throughout the world
- Make a temporary shelter and reflect on what it would be like to have inadequate housing

**Week 8: Making a Difference – Who Is My Neighbor?**

**Luke 10:25-37 - The story of the good Samaritan**

- Make a bracelet/bookmark as a reminder to help others
- Develop a Personal, Step-by-Step plan to help others

**Week 9: Wrap-Up Project/Presentation– Make It Real!**

- Complete your FTH or community project
- View your return letters or video (when available)\*\*
- Skype with kids in another country (when available)\*\*

\*\* Please make sure this activity has been scheduled at least one month in advance with an FTH staff member.

## **Hunger Awareness (Faith Based)**

### **Empty Hands and Empty Bellies**

**3-4-5-6**

**Purpose:** Students will hear the story of Jesus Feeding the 5,000, learn about world-wide hunger, participate in an activity demonstrating that globally 1 in 9 people face hunger, and come up with ways they can help hungry people.

#### **Lesson Prep:**

Become familiar with the following food hunger statistics:

- 1 in 9 people go to bed hungry every night around the world
- In the US, 1 in 6 children suffers from chronic hunger
- In some countries, only 22%-39% of the population has clean water

Gather materials

Cut out filled FTH rice bowl picture (1 for every 9 children)

Fill water pitchers (make one slightly muddy)

#### **Materials:**

Large paper plates

Crayons or markers – 1 for each child

Timer

Tape/glue stick

Clear cups for water

Two pitchers

Dirt/mud

Bible/Bible story

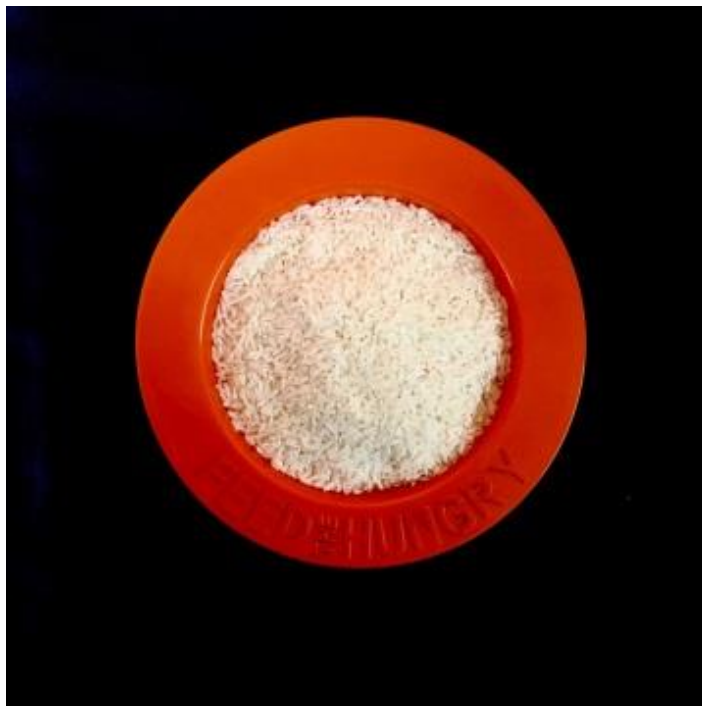
#### **Lesson:**

1. Begin by reading the story of Jesus and the feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21, emphasis on vs. 16: **Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”**).
2. Discuss what Jesus might have meant when he said **“You give them something to eat.”**
3. Ask students to name some of their favorite foods/restaurants and acknowledge their answers.
4. Tell them they are going to draw a picture of their favorite food so they have a “meal”.

#### **Activity:**

1. Arrange students in groups of 9 (pair students up if needed).
2. Distribute 1 paper plate to each child/group.
3. Explain that they will have 2 minutes to draw their favorite food on the plate, but they may only use the crayon/marker they are given. They may not share or trade crayons or markers with anyone else.
4. Distribute 1 marker or crayon to 8 of the 9 children/groups.
5. Start the timer and let them draw. While they are drawing ask the students who had no markers/crayons to help you fill water cups.
6. Give 3 of the 9 children/groups clean water in their cups and 6 of the 9 children/groups dirty water.
7. At the two minute mark, ask students to put their crayons/markers down.

8. Discuss: In America, we have many options, many ways to eat, even many places to eat, but for many people in the world, there is no food or not enough food for children to eat even 1 meal a day (acknowledge that even in the US some kids are hungry).
9. Share/Explain/Discuss:
  - 1 in 9 people around the world do not have food. Ask the student who could not draw food what that felt like.
  - In some countries, only 22%-39% of the population has clean water (about a third). Ask students with the muddy water what it felt like to not be able to drink their cups of water.
  - It is up to us as the body of Christ to help those in need and do our part. **Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."** Refer back to your earlier discussion of this statement.
  - There are organizations that help feed people around the world.
  - One of those organizations is Feed the Hungry.
10. Place the bowl of rice picture (provided by Feed the Hungry) on the paper plate with no drawing. Explain that Feed the Hungry helps provide hot, nutritious meals to children who need food.
11. Show the pictures of kids eating the rice meals (provided by Feed the Hungry)
12. Discuss:
  - What would it feel like to help children who are hungry?
  - What might the students be able to do to help Feed the Hungry get food into the hands of children that need it?
  - What might they be able to do to help kids in their school, church, or neighborhood?
  - Share your project idea with the students so they can begin to make a correlation between what they just learned and what they will be doing for Feed the Hungry.



## Water Transportation (Faith Based)

### Where's My Water?

3-4-5-6

**Purpose:** Students will experience a common chore for kids in other countries: retrieving their daily water supply. They will learn about water usage worldwide and compare how families in America get water to how families in third-world countries get water.

#### Lesson Prep:

Become familiar with the following water usage statistics:

- An average family in the US uses over 500 gallons of water a day
- An average family in the continent of Africa uses about 5 gallons of water a day
- At least 2 billion people world-wide use a water source contaminated with waste
- Over 700 million people world-wide lack basic drinking-water services
- **Some children and families served by FTH walk up to 4 kilometers, or 2.5 miles, one way to get water. When they can, FTH drills wells near feeding centers so children and families have access to fresh, clean water within a short distance from the feeding center.**

Gather materials

Cut holes in a few of the smaller containers (not the 5-gallon buckets)\*

Fill up a 55-gallon drum (or a similar sized container) with muddy water

Set up 2 stations in an outdoor space (can be done indoors – see note\*\*)

1. “Home base” with empty containers/cups and 5-gallon buckets lined up at the home base
2. One or more 55-gallon drums/containers (depending on how large the group is) some distance away from the home base (make distance appropriate for ages/stature of children, as older children may be able to carry water longer distances)

#### Materials:

Mismatched containers for carrying water (some with holes and some with missing lids, if choosing the outside option)

5-gallon buckets (one per person or one per “team,” if the group is large)

55-gallon drum (or similar sized container, such as a kiddie pool, horse trough, etc.)

Water

Dirt/sand/mud

Change of clothes and shoes for each student and volunteer (if activity is outside)

Paper cups (if choosing the indoor option)

#### Lesson:

1. Read the following Bible verses: **Luke 6:20-21, “Looking at his disciples, he said: ‘Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.’”**
2. Discuss this lesson’s Bible verse. What is Jesus saying about the poor? Who are the poor? Think of a time in your life when you felt one of the things Jesus is talking about here. In this passage, Jesus is providing comfort to those who struggle and encouragement to look on those who have less with compassion and love.

3. Begin by asking students what they used water for this morning.
4. Discuss different ways we use water in our everyday lives without noticing (flushing the toilet, brushing our teeth, cleaning fruits and veggies for lunch, etc.).
5. Display a 5-gallon bucket. This is the amount of water a typical family in an African country uses in a day. Now ask students to imagine 100 of these containers. This is the amount of water a typical American family uses in a day.
6. Discuss the amount of time it takes them to get to school every day. Some kids in other countries have to make a 30-minute trip to get water so they can bathe, eat, drink, and clean their dishes.
7. Ask students about the quality of their water. Is it clean? Dirty? How do they know their water is safe to drink? Why don't all countries have clean water?
8. Discuss how much of the world does not have clean water available to them. At least 2 billion people worldwide drink water that is muddied with people and animal waste.
9. Explain how the activity is going to show them a typical chore a kid their age might do and how hard it is to access water in other countries.

**Activity:**

1. Have students start at home base and grab an empty container and their 5-gallon bucket.
2. Students will carry their 5-gallon buckets and their small containers to the 55-gallon drum of water.
3. Using their small containers, they will fill their 5-gallon buckets to the top.
4. Once their 5-gallon buckets are filled, they must carry the buckets back to their home base. They must also figure out how to get their small containers back with them, as it is most likely their drinking container once they are home. Now they have the water their family needs for the day!
5. Discuss:
  - What would it feel like to do this every day for your family?
  - Would you be motivated to walk another 30 minutes to go to school afterwards?
  - Think of today's Bible verse (Luke 6:20-21). What encouragement does this provide to those who don't have the same comforts we have? With this verse in mind, what is one way you could show Jesus's love to kids who have less than you?
  - What might the students be able to do to help Feed the Hungry get other kids clean, safe water?
6. Watch the video of Memory and the Well Project (available online).
7. Discuss what was shown in the video.
8. Present or reiterate what your group/school will be doing for your Feed the Hungry Project.

**\*Note:** If doing this activity outside, ask the students the day before to bring clothes and shoes they can get wet and a change of dry clothes.

**\*\*Alternate Indoor Activity:** Instead of using mismatched containers with holes and no lids, give each child a paper cup. Have the home base and the source of water (55-gallon drum or a couple of filled 5-gallon buckets) within a hallway or area where clean-up of spilled water will be easy. You can place the source of the muddy water a distance away or even in another part of the building to simulate the long walk it takes to get to water. (Some children and families served by FTH walk up to 4 kilometers, or 2.5 miles, one way to get water. When they can, FTH drills wells near feeding centers so children and families have access to fresh, clean water within a short distance from the feeding center.)

## **Hello From My Home Country (Faith Based)** **Personalized Letters and/or Video**

**3-4-5-6**

**Purpose:** Students will create letters, pictures and/or a video to say “hello” to their Partner School.

### **Lesson Prep:**

Gather materials

Prepare a script outline if you plan to record a video

Print copies of the Letter Template (provided by Feed the Hungry staff - specific to country and topic)

Connect with FTH for the location and name of the Partner School/group/sports team



### **Materials:**

Letter Templates, 1 for each child

Writing instruments (pencils, crayons, markers, etc.)

Video recording device

Prepared script

Country background info (if desired)

### **Lesson:**

1. Begin by sharing the following Bible verse: **Hebrews 10:24, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,”**.
2. Discuss what it means to “spur” someone on (by making them feel good) toward love and good deeds (with a kind act).
3. Ask the students if there was a time they received a card in the mail or someone did something nice for them. Ask how it felt.
4. Explain to students they will be connecting with a school/group/sports team from the country selected to send them a kind note or video and encourage them in their walk with Christ. You may wish to have some background info on the country to present.
5. Share the information about the Partner School with your students. *You **MUST** connect with Feed the Hungry Staff prior to this lesson to obtain the necessary info about your Partner School.*
- 6.

### **Activity:**

1. If you are writing letters, discuss the topic at the top of the template and have the students brainstorm ideas about what they can write. The writing should match the appropriate age of the students. Encourage them to ask questions and tell about their lives. You may also wish to draft one class letter together with more content.
  - **Remind students NOT to mention food.**



- Remind students to share their FIRST name only.
  - Remind students not to share ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION such as address, phone, social media accounts or other personal details.
2. If creating a video, explain the project, run a quick practice and record.

Following the completion of the project, send the notes or video to your FTH staff contact.

## Fun and Games (Faith Based)

### Trash Is Treasure

3-4-5-6

**Purpose:** Students will learn how to be resourceful with limited materials. Students will create a soccer ball or toy out of “trash” and discarded items.

#### Lesson Prep:

Download pictures of kids with homemade soccer balls (Provided by FTH)

Gather materials

#### Materials:

“Clean” trash

- Plastic bags
- Paper
- Cardboard
- Foam
- String/rope/yarn
- Everyday items such as candy wrappers, cereal boxes, chip bags, junk mail envelopes, etc.

Scissors (1 per group, the adult monitors limited use)

Duct tape in limited amounts

Cones/Markers/Folding Chairs – set up as soccer goals

#### Lesson:

1. Share the following Bible verse: **1 Peter 4:10**, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”
2. Discuss questions related to the key verse. What does it mean to be a “faithful steward?” What are some different ways you see God’s grace in your own life? Name some of the resources God has given you.
3. Begin a discussion about access to toys, electronics, and items kids enjoy.  
Questions to ask: Where do you get your toys? Where do you usually play with the toys you have?
4. Ask students what they think the most popular sport is in the world. (Answer: Soccer is the most popular sport worldwide.)
5. What would they do if they looked in all the stores around them and NO ONE had a ball they could use to play soccer (or football, basketball, baseball)? Why don’t different communities have the toys and resources that are available to us?
6. Discuss poverty and resources. Why do some people have fewer resources than we do? What is it about countries like Uganda and Nicaragua that cause them to have less access to things like food and toys? Talk about how politics affect things like poverty and people’s access to resources.

7. Because not everyone has the same resources, some kids have to use their creativity to make their own toys. This activity is going to give them a glimpse of what that feels like. They are going to work together to make soccer balls from trash and other materials they could find on the streets.
8. Show the picture (provided by FTH) of the boy with his homemade soccer ball as an example of what they are going to make.

**Activity:**

1. Divide students into pairs. Each pair will need to gather “trash” from the large pile. They will use that trash to make their ball.
2. A teacher will be the designated scissor holder. If kids want help with the scissors, they have to trade something for the privilege of using them (a few coins, a pencil, a bracelet, etc. It is up the teacher holding the scissors).
3. Each team will be given 10 minutes to make their soccer ball. They will need to work together to figure out how to structure the ball and make it secure enough to kick, throw, and bounce.
4. While they are making the soccer balls, a leader will set up a tournament area where the kids can test each ball to see which one is the best.
5. Once the kids are done making their balls, they will participate in a tournament to decide which ball travels the farthest, bounces the highest, and kicks the straightest.  
**Note:** Some options for this part of the activity would be to either have the kids line up and test the balls (distance, accuracy, and bounce) doing an elimination tournament or by having soccer games during recess spread throughout the week (each game using a different ball).
6. Discuss:
  - How did it go making your own soccer balls from the materials provided?
  - How would you feel if those were the only materials you had available to play with?
  - What are some resources you have (besides money) that God might want to use to bless other kids?
  - What might the students be able to do to help Feed the Hungry help kids around the world?
7. Show the picture of the boy with the homemade soccer ball again. Explain that we don’t have to have a lot of money to help other kids. God has given all of us resources we can use to help others. Discuss how kids in every country want to play and have fun just like them! This boy was creative enough to make a toy out of the materials around him. How do you think he would feel to hold a store-bought soccer ball?
8. Present or reiterate what your group/school will be doing for your Feed the Hungry Project.

## **Do I Have To Go To School? (Faith Based)**

### **Education vs. Work**

**3-4-5-6**

**Purpose:** Students will explore the connection between education and job opportunities, understanding that when children are fed by Feed the Hungry, they stay in school longer and can get better jobs to help break the cycle of poverty.

NOTE: This lesson has 2 activity options. The activities can be combined, but if combining, allow for adequate time to complete the discussions.

#### **Lesson Prep:**

Become familiar with the following statistics/information from Feed the Hungry concerning food and education:

- Education in many countries served by FTH is free, however children are required to have uniforms or provide their own transportation, costs that many families are not able to afford
- Often times, the countries where FTH works do not have laws or standards that require children to attend school
- Many countries served by FTH allow students to “graduate” out of the program by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade or 8<sup>th</sup> grade US equivalent
- Uganda does not have a national school lunch program

Gather materials

\*Make copies of the Job Cards on heavy card stock and cut them apart, 1 Job Card for each student or 1 set of Job Cards per group.

#### **Materials:**

White board or poster board

Markers

Job Cards (1 set per group or 1 per student)

Bible

\*Picture prayer cards of Ethan or Precious (depending on video choice) NOTE: Please request these cards at least two weeks in advance from FTH.

#### **Lesson Part 1:**

1. Share the scripture with students from Colossians 3:23a “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart...”
2. Discuss what “whatever you do” means and help students draw the conclusion that a job or career is certainly part of “whatever you do.”
3. Discuss what it means to “work at it with all your heart...” Help students understand that our work should glorify God, no matter what that work is.
4. Ask students what jobs they would like to have when they grow up.
5. Write down their answers and record a list that is visible to all students (you may want to suggest a few).
6. Choose a couple of jobs from the list that require different amounts of schooling.

7. Lead a discussion on each job chosen - focusing on education or training someone would need. For example, a Doctor would need to go to elementary school, middle school, high school, college and then take a test to be accepted into a Medical Doctoral Program where they have more years of training. A person working at a restaurant might be able to get a job while they are still in high school.
8. Ask students how they would feel if they knew they had to go to school (get an education) to get that job, but during the school day they would not have food.
9. Talk about how difficult it is to do work, concentrate, or even play at recess when they have not had anything to eat.
10. Ask students what they might do if they went to school and then realized no lunch was being served.
  - Would they leave to go look for food?
  - Would they steal something?
  - Would they ask and beg for something from friends?
  - Would they even bother to go to school?
11. Discuss how Feed the Hungry provides nutritious meals to students during their school day.
  - a. Feed the Hungry sees increased attendance (sometimes up to 70%) in schools where children are being fed (remember, not all countries require school attendance)
  - b. Whole day attendance increases when Feed the Hungry provides a meal, as children do not leave at lunch time to find food
  - c. Children struggling with sickness and disease often get strong/better and miss fewer days of school because of illness
12. Watch one of the suggested videos: The story of Ethan OR The story of Precious in Uganda
13. Explain that for children to have a better future (jobs and money to feed themselves) it is important they STAY IN SCHOOL.

**Activity 1:**

1. Discuss with the students that families often cannot afford to feed themselves, so they have children work alongside them in the fields, the dump or the community to provide food and money instead of sending the children to school.
2. Let students know they are going to get a set of cards with a “job” for specific countries with the amount of school needed for each job and pay they would receive (in US dollars).
3. Divide students into small groups.
4. Pass out 1 set of job cards to each group.
5. Have students look through all the cards and pass them around within their group
6. Have groups discuss the following (helping them make the connection between being fed in school, more education and better paying jobs):
  - What would it be like to work instead of going to school?
  - Would students like to work with their parents and families?
  - How does more education affect pay?
  - How does having a meal at school help kids?

**Activity 2:**

1. Discuss with the students that families often cannot afford to feed themselves, so they have children work alongside them in the fields, the dump or the community to provide food and money instead of sending the children to school.
2. Let students know they are going to receive a card with a “job” on it. The amount of schooling needed for each job and pay they would receive (in US dollars) is listed on the card as well.
3. Let them know that after everyone has received their cards, they can walk around and see what other jobs are available.
4. If they do not like their job, they may trade with another student, provided the other student wants to trade.
5. Give students a few minutes to mingle and look at all the jobs.
6. Have students reassemble, and discuss the following (helping them make the connection between being fed in school, more education and better paying jobs):
  - Did they like the job they received? Why or why not?
  - If they didn’t like the job, what would it take to get something better?
  - What would it be like to work instead of going to school or only go to school for a few years?
  - What would happen to them if they didn’t get an education to be able to get a better paying job?

**Lesson Part 2:**

1. Remind the students of the scripture verse from the beginning of the lesson. Colossians 3:23a “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart...”
2. Let students know that even though some of the jobs listed on the cards are not jobs people in America would want to do, the jobs do provide money for families. Many families, including those working in the dump, are proud that they have a job and proud to be doing work that helps put food on their tables.
3. Share the prayer cards of Ethan or Precious with your students (depending on which video you watched with the lesson).
4. Take a few minutes to pray for the children receiving the hot, nutritious meals from FTH. If your class/group is focusing on a specific country for a project, have students focus their prayers on children in that country.
  - Pray that students would stay in school to get their education
  - Pray that the meals would benefit the students and help them grow in their body, mind and spirit
  - Pray for children to know Jesus
5. Wrap up with comments on how important it is that children receive a meal from Feed the Hungry during their school day so they can finish their education and get a better job.
6. Conclude the lesson by reminding students of your FTH project and what they can do to help.

## Shelter Awareness (Faith Based)

### Homelessness Worldwide

3-4-5-6

**Purpose:** Students will learn more about the issues of homelessness worldwide. They will see examples of different shelters people live in, and they will experience what it is like to build their own shelter.

#### Lesson Prep:

Become familiar with the following statistics about homelessness worldwide:

- Over 66% of Ugandans live in “inadequate housing”
- More than 72% of people in Zimbabwe live below the poverty line
- In Honduras, between 8 -12% of all children under the age 18 are homeless

Gather materials

Download pictures of different homes around the world (provided by FTH)

#### Materials:

Cardboard boxes  
Blankets  
Pieces of cardboard  
Newspaper  
Duct tape

#### Lesson:

1. Share the following Bible verses: **John 14:2-3, “In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going away to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am.”**
2. Discuss what Jesus meant by His Father’s House and preparing a place for believers.
  - What do you think God’s house is like? What does He mean by “many rooms?”
  - What would it be like if Jesus’ house was right next to yours?
  - Do you ever wonder what it is like to live in heaven? Do you think there are neighborhoods in heaven, or do you think we all live in one big house?
3. Talk about the homes your students live in locally, here on earth.
4. Discuss:
  - What is your favorite part of your house?
  - What kind of neighborhood do you live in?
5. Discuss how every person has the basic needs of food, water, warmth, and sleep.
  - Have you ever stayed up way past your bedtime?
  - How do you feel when you don’t get enough sleep?
  - How would you feel if you didn’t have anywhere warm to sleep?

6. Discuss homelessness around the world. People all over the world don't have shelter. In many countries, even those who do have shelter live in what we would consider "inadequate housing." This means their home may be unclean, unsafe, or does not protect them from the weather.
7. Ask questions that prompt students to think about the causes of homelessness (poverty, war, job loss, natural disaster, etc.).
8. Show the pictures provided by Feed the Hungry of different houses around the world and discuss what the homes are made of.
9. Explain that people make homes out of what is available. Tell them they are going to experience what it is like to have to build their own home and spend time in it.

**Activity:**

1. Each student will use the materials provided to build a small shelter. Feel free to use resources in the room, such as chairs, books, or desks. You can also divide the students into "family" groups of 3-4, and they can build their structure together.
2. Once their structure is built, have students spend 4 minutes in silence, lying on their backs in their shelters.
3. After the 4 minutes is up, have a discussion while the kids are still lying down in their shelters.
  - What would it feel like to sleep in that every night?
  - Imagine it started raining. Would their home stand up to wind and rain?
  - What would happen if bugs or animals, like chickens or dogs, could get in their home?
  - What types of noise would be outside their home that they could hear?
  - Would they feel safe sleeping in the shelter they made? Why or why not?
4. Now have the kids sit outside their shelters. Ask children about their sleeping arrangements.
  - How did it feel to lie on the floor?
  - How would it feel if you didn't have a mattress to sleep on?
  - How would it feel to have to "build" a structure every night to sleep in?
5. Read **Luke 9:58, "And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'"** Jesus tells us He didn't even have a place to call home while he was on earth (as a child he lived with his parents).
  - What type of home do you think Jesus lived in with his parents when he was a kid?
  - Where do you think Jesus slept while he was traveling with his disciples?
  - Do you think He ever slept outside?
6. Explain that Feed the Hungry provides food for children but also sometimes builds them beds or gives them blankets and mattresses.
7. Ask what other organizations give out beds or provide homes. How might your students help Feed the Hungry or those organizations provide blankets, pillows, mattresses, or even homes?
8. Present or reiterate what your group/school will be doing for your Feed the Hungry Project.



**Optional Activities:**

1. Host a lock-in where everyone can sleep in their shelters overnight.
2. You can suggest the students try it at home by themselves (with parent/guardian permission).
3. If you are in a classroom setting, students could wear appropriate pajamas or comfortable clothes for the day.

**Going deeper:** While the students are lying in their shelters, read one of the suggested books about being homeless (or another relevant book about philanthropy and helping others). Afterward, have a discussion about the people in the story or how the story affected the students.

**Bonus Book Recommendations!**

“Homeless” by Mike Boyce

“A Shelter in Our Car” by Monica Gunning

“Still a Family: A Story about Homelessness” by Brenda Reeves Sturgis

## **Making A Difference (Faith Based)**

### **Who Is My Neighbor?**

**3-4-5-6**

**Purpose:** Students will explore who their neighbor is and become aware of how their compassion can help others. They will create a project (compassion bracelet/bookmark) that will serve as a daily reminder to have compassion for others.

#### **Lesson Prep:**

Understand or research Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs – Maslow stated that people are motivated to achieve certain needs, and some needs take precedence over others. Our most basic need is for physical survival or biological requirements for survival (air, water, food, shelter, clothing, warmth, etc.). This lesson focuses on water, food, shelter, and clothing.

Review the following statistics:

- Over 700 million people lack basic drinking-water services
- Around 1.6 billion people do not have adequate housing
- 1 in 9 people go to bed hungry every night around the world

Gather materials

Create color-coordinated need cards

Create one bracelet packet for each child

#### **Materials:**

White board or large butcher paper taped to the wall

Markers or crayons (white board markers if using a white board)

Construction paper with the corresponding word written on it

- White - Clothing
- Blue - Water
- Green - Food
- Brown – Shelter (house)
- Yellow - School
- Orange – Feed the Hungry

White shoe strings (cut it half – one half for each student) – knotted on cut end so the beads will not slide off

Pony beads (enough for each student to have one of each color):

- Blue
- Green
- Brown
- Yellow
- Orange

Small Ziplocs to create bracelet material packets

Bible

## Lesson:

1. Ask the students what they think they need to live (refer to Maslow’s Hierarchy and the statistics provided).
2. Create a list of what the students say they need to live.
3. Help students identify what are NEEDS and what are WANTS, and circle or place a star by the items that are NEEDED. Use the construction paper with the words printed on it to represent the NEEDS.
4. Continue the discussion by explaining some people do not have what they NEED.
5. Explain compassion (caring, helping, loving, etc.). Share with students, “Knowing these things about the world helps us to have **compassion** for those around us. Compassion means to care about the problems other people face. When we care about other people’s problems, we are more likely to help them.”
6. Refer to the Good Samaritan and how he saw the need, cared about the person, and then helped out the injured man.
7. Reenact the story of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10:25-37. Have students play each of the characters as you tell/read it.
8. Discuss what a “modern day” version of this story might be (homeless people seen on the corner of an intersection, a student in school getting bullied, etc.).
9. Discuss the actions of the Good Samaritan:
  - How did the Good Samaritan help the hurt man, his neighbor?
  - Have you ever helped someone? What did you do?
  - Who is your neighbor?
  - What are some ways you can show love to your neighbors?
  - Why do you think Jesus wants us to help other people?
10. Explain how this activity is going to help students remember the needs of others and remind them they can do something to help, just like the Good Samaritan did.

## Activity:

1. Hand out the packets\* and have students assemble the bracelets as you hold up the need cards and discuss what each card represents.
  - White shoestring represents clothing.
  - Blue represents clean water. **Over 700 million people lack basic drinking water services.**
  - Green represents food. **1 in 9 people go to bed hungry every night.**
  - Brown represents housing. Around 1.6 billion people do not have adequate housing.
  - Yellow represents education. **Many schools do not provide a lunch for students.**
  - Orange represents kindness. **“Love your neighbor” and Feed the Hungry.**
  - Finish by tying off the end and wither tying the bracelet on the child’s wrist, or they can use it as a bookmark.
2. Each bead signifies one thing people need. Remind students that when they look at their bracelet, they should remember there are people who don’t have these things available to them. The bracelet/bookmark becomes a reminder that students can help others.

**\*You can make the sample bracelet while having the kids watch and listen first. Or, the students can make their bracelets at the same time you are holding up the cards.**

**Note: If your group is participating in the 9-week course, you can use this lesson as a review! Discuss the previous projects and what you learned about poverty and helping people. Let this be a reflective lesson that gives the kids something to take home, reminding them to care for others.**

**BONUS IDEA!**

**Have a designated Feed the Hungry/compassion awareness day EVERY WEEK. Kids and teachers wear their bracelets and pray for Feed the Hungry and others in need throughout the day.**

