

HUNGER BANQUET ACTIVITY

Divide participants into 3 groups:

- **First represents 1st world countries (15% of World's population);** USA, England, Japan (4 out of group of 25) – Table with abundance of food (ex. strawberries, grapes, bananas, small apples, bagels cut, donut holes, juice bottles, cloth tablecloth, printed plates & napkins)
- **Second represents 2nd world countries (30% of World's population);** Israel, Spain (7 out of 25) – Table with limited supply (ex. small apples, slightly green bananas, plain plates & napkins, water or juice bottles)
- **Third represents 3rd world countries (55% of World's population);** Zambia, Honduras, India (14 out of 25) – Table with small supply (ex. ½ loaf French bread & water served in Dixie cup, & plain napkins)

Have kids write name on piece of paper (can do this at the beginning) & draw out the 1st & 2nd groups. All others go to third table. (Or randomly choose the groups however you wish). **Important note: At the end, all students will share in the table of abundance.**

For the younger kids: *Read the dream of a holy man during banquet:*

A holy man had a dream one night and in his dream he had a vision of heaven and hell.

In the vision of hell, he saw a table on which was laid a sumptuous banquet, a lot of delicious and beautiful food. The people approached the table to eat. Each person had a utensil for eating which had a yard-long handle, and as they tried to eat they could not get the food into their mouths. They tried and tried to no avail. They became frustrated and began to insult and hit each other, even wasting the delicious food. The holy man's dream continued, this time with a vision of heaven. Again he saw a table laden with a sumptuous banquet, a lot of delicious and beautiful food. The people approached the table to eat. Each person had a utensil for eating which had a yard-long handle. They looked at the table and at each other and began to pick up the food and offer it to their neighbors. And all enjoyed being together and helping each other.

For the older kids: *Share Stats*

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

- 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)

- 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.

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?

The people in the 2nd World country struggle to meet their basic need of food & people in the 3rd World country do not have enough food and are malnourished and starving. When people in the 1st World Country have been made AWARE of the needs of the other countries, what can we do?

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. **Share our abundance!**

God calls each of us to live our faith every hour of every day; to be a living example of the greatest missionary – Jesus Christ!

Closing:

Blessing prayer for younger kids:

Have the kids follow the instruction and respond “Amen” after each.

Make a Sign of the Cross on your forehead. May you always remember to follow Jesus...Amen.

Make a Sign of the Cross over your closed eyes. May you learn to see Jesus in all whom you meet...Amen.

Make a Sign of the Cross on your lips. May all your words show respect...Amen.

Make a Sign of the Cross over your heart. May love move you to action and may God give you Strength to carry on the work of Jesus...Amen.

Petitions for older kids:

St. Therese promised to spend her heaven doing good on earth. Through her intercession, let us pray for the good of all in need:

Response: Father, hear your children's prayer.

O Wisdom of God, through you all things were made:

- protect from exploitation all children, created in your image. **R**

O Wisdom of God, you are the light by which we see:

- enlighten the hearts of all those deceived by false images of maturity. **R**

O Wisdom of God, you are the truth by which we live:

- grant courage to all missionaries who proclaim your truth. **R**

O Wisdom of God, you speak through all the wise:

- open the ears of your people to the wisdom of St. Therese for our day. **R**