

Food Distribution Around the World: How Much Food Do You Get to Eat?

Objective:

To provide a visual example of the distribution of the world's food and wealth as well as to encourage discussion amongst participants about fairness and justice.

Number of Participants: 25 individuals

Supplies Needed:

Candies or popcorn or other easily divided food items

Three bowls

Divide the participants into three groups, as indicated below, to represent high-income countries, middle-income countries, and low-income countries. The high-income countries will have the fewest people in the group, but the most "food"; the low-income countries will have the most people and the least amount of "food".

High Income

Number of Participants: 4 individuals or 17% of your total group's size

Description of Group: This group represents about one in six people. It includes countries like Canada, United States, and Japan. Most people make enough money to live comfortably. Most children have safe water and good doctors, many people get more to eat than they need and live to be about 76 years old.

Pieces of "Food": 50 per individual in this group

Middle Income

Number of Participants: 6 individuals or 25% of your total group's size

Description of Group: One in four people are in this group. It includes countries like Poland, Thailand, and the Philippines. Many people do not get enough to eat and five times more children die in this group than the first group.

Pieces of "Food": 7 per individual in this group

Low Income

Number of Participants: 15 individuals or 57% of your total group's size

Description of Group: More than half the people in the world live here, in countries like Haiti, Bangladesh and Ethiopia. People earn less than \$2 a day, and most people go hungry every day. The drinking water often makes people sick, and some people even die from drinking it. The average person only lives to be about 60 years old.

Pieces of "Food": 1 for every three people.

Explain that the three groups represent the rich, medium and poor countries. Describe each group. After each group's description, pour the "food" into their bowls and explain that this represents the amount of food the group gets. Ask the students to not eat any "food" until the exercise is over—and don't make the "food" amounts even at the end. Allow the participants to share only if they choose.

Discussion

1. For Group 1: How does it feel to have so much food, especially when others don't?
2. For Group 3: How do you feel about the people in the wealthy group? What would you want them to do?
3. Is this distribution fair? Why or Why not? What would make it fair?
4. If you lived in the poorest group, what are some other things you may not have besides food?

<i>Flush toilets</i>	<i>telephones</i>	<i>electricity</i>	<i>television</i>
<i>Toys</i>	<i>schooling</i>	<i>running water</i>	<i>hospitals</i>
<i>Doctors nearby</i>	<i>toothbrush</i>	<i>drinkable water</i>	<i>nice clothes</i>
<i>Hot shower</i>	<i>police protection</i>	<i>cars</i>	<i>air conditioning</i>
5. Why do a few people have so much food and many people have so little? What causes hunger? This is list of some causes of hunger, although there are many more.

<i>Not enough good job</i>	<i>unequal distribution of wealth</i>	<i>little education</i>
<i>Overpopulation</i>	<i>not enough health care</i>	<i>poor nutrition</i>
<i>Poor country debt</i>	<i>unequal access to resources</i>	<i>racism</i>
<i>War</i>	<i>corrupt governments</i>	<i>disasters</i>
<i>Famine</i>	<i>greed</i>	<i>lack of justice</i>
<i>Not enough clean drinking water</i>		
6. What do you think God thinks about some people having so much while others have so little? What do you think God would want us to do about them? How does God want the world to be?