

LESSON FIVE: Learning Through Community



The GOALS

of this lesson are to:

- develop an awareness of hunger and of places hungry people can turn for help, such as a soup kitchen (SOCIAL STUDIES)
- build concern about, empathy for and identification with the hungry in our own and other communities
- emphasize that we all have a role to play in reducing the amount of hunger (SOCIAL STUDIES)
- give students an opportunity to take action against hunger within their own community
- learn how good it feels to make a difference in fighting hunger and building a better community

This lesson has two components: a **DISCUSSION** about what the class has learned over the past few classes about hunger and how they might make a difference in addressing the issue; and brainstorming/planning a Community Service **ACTIVITY** which the class can undertake.



DISCUSSION

Have students report back on the research they undertook as part of Lesson One about the role that local nonprofit organizations play in responding to hunger. Briefly review what students learned through the Hunger IQ Test, and through researching historical changes in the national response to hunger. Remind students of the day-to-day challenges that a poor family faces in trying to eat on a budget, as demonstrated in Lessons Three and Four.

Discuss the importance of the individual in solving society's problems like hunger. What can each person in the class do? What can the class do as a whole?



ACTIVITY

The following are suggested activities, one or more of which the class can undertake as a community service project.

Have a speaker from a local food pantry or soup kitchen or from Project Bread talk with the class about hunger and what their organization is doing to combat hunger. The speaker may want to brainstorm with the class about a future project they could undertake together.

Plan a visit to a local food pantry, soup kitchen or feeding program. If possible, arrange a visit which allows enough time for the class to actually pitch in and help — either shelving groceries for a food pantry (perhaps groceries that they have collected) or serving a meal.

Have the class make posters to put up in the school encouraging students to participate in the Walk for Hunger. Encourage the students to include sentiments about why this is important: “We can make a difference,” “We want to help others who don’t have enough to eat.”

Have a student and/or teacher who has participated in the Walk for Hunger in the past talk about the experience and encourage other students to participate this year.

NOTES

Organize a food drive. Have the class determine the most appropriate local program to receive the food that is collected.

Organize an Oxfam-like hunger banquet in which participants draw lots to determine how much food they get to eat. Charge admission to the banquet and donate the money which is raised to a local feeding program.

Launch a campaign to increase student use of school breakfasts/lunches. Meet with school officials to determine the best strategy for achieving this goal.

Evaluate the extent to which the school, school district or community wastes food. Develop a plan for more efficient use of the food and/or distribution of extra food.

Using the research already done by the class, produce a PSA (Public Service Announcement) for the local cable television channel on resources for hungry people.

Investigate the local farmers' market and volunteer to help build a connection between the farmers' market and efforts to feed the hungry in the community.