

# Youth Group Activity #2: IN ANOTHER'S SHOES

## AGE RANGE

High School

## MATERIALS

- Handouts with family composition
- Scratch paper/chart paper and writing implements
- Information specific to your context such as cost of renting housing and supermarket circulars

## INTENTION

This activity will help youth to consider the impact of poverty on families and consider how God can use our giving to help.

## OPTIONAL EXTENDER

The youth may be invited to share a testimonial in worship.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Begin by reading the focus scripture for this year's OGHS: Ephesians 3:14-21.

Direct the youth to consider the theme: **More than We Can Imagine.**

Invite some discussion about how they understand the theme in the context of the scripture.

In a 2014 report the United Nations reported the following figures:

*"Globally, 1.2 billion people (22 percent) live on less than \$1.25 a day. Increasing the income poverty line to \$2.50 a day raises the global income poverty rate to about 50 percent, or 2.7 billion people."*

The UN talks about multidimensional poverty.

- What do you think they mean by that?
- How does living in poverty make people vulnerable?
- What are some of the things families may need to sacrifice if they don't have enough money?

Let's consider what it looks like to live in different income categories in our own country.

Break the group into "families," assigning each a family from the selections below.

Invite the youth to create a budget to meet the needs of their assigned family.

They should consider:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Food
- Child Care
- Dental Care
- Vision Care
- Medical Care
- Medications
- Clothing and other necessities
- Veterinary Care
- Entertainment

Multidimensional Poverty refers to "the multiple deprivations that each poor person faces at the same time with respect to education, health and living standards."

*Once groups have worked through their budget needs, notify the whole group that a natural disaster has occurred--select something relevant to your region. Invite groups to consider the additional challenges of extended losses of power, the need to evacuate, places of work shutting down temporarily or long-term, and damage to possessions and homes. As the leader, you can decide if the disaster affected all areas equally or if some areas were hit harder than others.*

*Provide adequate time for discussion before calling them back into a large group debrief of the activity.*

### **GROUP DEBRIEF**

*Invite each group to share a bit about their family, the income they were given, and the choices they had to make in budgeting.*

- How did this activity make you feel?
- What were some of the areas where families had to make sacrifices?
- How would life be different for these families if their basic needs were met?
- How do you think this compares to families living in other parts of the world? What might be some of the same needs? What needs might be different?
- What are some of the ways God can use our One Great Hour of Sharing offerings to help families and communities in need?

*Close with this prayer by Oscar Romero.*

Archbishop Oscar Romero was a priest in El Salvador who spoke up against poverty, social injustice, and violence in the community. He was assassinated in 1980 while offering Mass.

### **A PRAYER BY ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO**

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.  
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.  
Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying  
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted,

knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our  
capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of  
liberation

in realizing that. This enables us to do something,

and to do it very well. It may be incomplete,

but it is a beginning, a step along the way,

an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the  
rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the  
difference

between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not  
messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Amen.

Family 1	Family 2	Family 3
1 adult and 3 children	Family of 2 adults and 1 school-aged child, 2 dogs	Family of 2 adults, 2 adult children (one of them lives at home and goes to community college)
<b>Adult</b>	<b>Adult 1</b>	<b>Adult 1</b>
<p><b>Wages:</b> \$7.00 per hour; shifts vary, some weeks 25 hours, some weeks 30</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> No health insurance or vacation time</p>	<p><b>Wages:</b> \$35 per hour; 40 hours per week</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> Health insurance, including dental and vision care, 4 weeks vacation time, 2 weeks sick time</p>	<p><b>Wages:</b> \$10 per hour; 35 hours per week, evenings</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> Health insurance offered but adult 1 opted out because it's too expensive; 5 days vacation time, 7 days sick time</p>
	<b>Adult 2</b>	<b>Adult 2</b>
	Wages: \$22 per hour; 20 hours per week	Wages: receives Social Security Disability payments after injuring their back on the job, \$700 per month
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 child is under 5 and needs daycare</li> <li>• 1 child has asthma</li> <li>• Family lives in a 1 bedroom apartment with a small yard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family lives in a 3 bedroom home with a yard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family lives in a 2 bedroom apartment</li> <li>• There is no public transportation where they live</li> </ul>