



“I Hunger for Mercy” Suggested Youth Activities

Prior to the “I Hunger for Mercy Event”

- Your goal is to raise \$30 in sponsorships from 12 people (\$360 total). Why \$360?? That is enough to help a needy child in the United States to receive vital item such as food, clothing, school supplies, and shoes for a year!
- Complete donation cards beforehand stating how many hours you plan to go hungry for the poor
- Suggested fundraisers:
 - Food drives
 - Car washes
 - Fabric drives (to make blankets for the homeless)
 - Toiletries for the Homeless drives
 - Spare change drives
- Collect large boxes from department stores (appliance boxes) or home centers in order to make box homes for village during the “I Hunger for Mercy” event

Kick-Off Activities

- Explain the purpose of the “I Hunger for Mercy” program and provide background information on hunger including how many children die each day from hunger in our country and abroad. (Handout will be distributed)
- Run slide show of actual poor children who are in need
- Candle circle—prayers and hopes ceremony to open the event
- Divide group of children into “villages”
- Have each group start to create their village
- Have the children divide up tasks for the evening (who will get water for their village, who will make the homes, who will work in the mercy stations, etc.)



Praise and Worship

- Mass
- Music/singing
- Set prayer time for rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, etc.
- Prayer walk around the school or church property (some people holding signs about hunger; some holding candles or flashlights if at night)
- Speakers (Kellie, Guest speaker)
- Bible study about the Eucharist
- In a silent dark room, light 60 small candles. Each candle represented only a small portion of the thousands of people that die each day from AIDS, hunger, and malnutrition. Every 15 seconds, someone blows out a candle. This process continues until the room is pitch black. The thousands of lives that those candles represent have been extinguished in what seems to be no time at all. Sitting in the now pitch black room, a single candle is lit — which represents Jesus, our guide and light in the darkness.

Create Villages

- Divide teens into groups to become “villages” or have one large “village.” Name your village and make a sign “Welcome to _____ Village.”
- Divide up duties for village life...who will walk to watering station and bring water back for all villagers, who will build card board boxes for villagers to sleep in, etc.
- Create a large world map and place paper “candles” with teen’s name on it for each hour they do not eat. “The Light of Christ” OR an outline of Africa, or a cross, etc., and fill in the item with paper “candles” showing teen’s name on it for each hour they prayed for the poor.
- Have a “monastery” where villagers take time to pray...have holy hours....Bible study (can use a school room and have one room with silent prayers and adoration and another room where someone (at least one person if not more praying the rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet through out the 24-hours...rotating people in and out of the prayer room).
- Set up a water area (hose) farthest point from campers...have to walk to get water (signs of how far people walk for water) (ex.: walk three times around the football field to get water and three times back carrying water for self and villagers).



- Create box homes (get card board boxes from Home Depot, Sears, etc.)
- Have some of the villagers simulate disabilities...can't use an arm, leg, blind....no medical help, etc.
- Have a “community center” with Mercy Stations in the village where villagers can make items for the poor (rosaries, blankets, bag food or toilette items that were collected before into specific bags (see attached list for each type of food bag)), or have a car wash.

Mercy Stations

- Make rosaries
 - Make blankets (have a fabric drive beforehand)
 - Make “I Hunger for Mercy” prayer books in French, English, and Spanish
 - Bag food (that was collected beforehand in a food drive)
 - Bag sacramentals for the poor
 - Work on website to write about experience of not eating, doing things for the poor, etc.
 - Write Congress to support the poor in the United States and in Africa
 - Participate in poverty awareness activities such as preparing a budget for a family on a limited income, relay races for service, etc.
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- Have a rosary walk up and down the sidewalk near a frequently traveled road with signs “I hunger for mercy,” “I will go without food for 24 hours what will you do for the poor?” and “Love them like Jesus”
 - Create a cemetery of crosses representing the 26,000 children who die daily
 - Throughout the 24-hours, have some call out natural disasters (example: so much rain that the garden has washed away, homes have washed away). Also, at random times there should be droughts, floods, and any other natural disaster or large-scale medical problems (plague). During the event, in order to receive water (juice or Gatorade), the villagers must walk a distance such as around the church or school property three times in order to get water and carry it back three times around the property (in bottles, buckets, etc.). Can use a cloth to “filter” water. Solve problems...who gets the water for everyone, who builds the homes, who must give some of your land to rebel forces, etc.
 - Scavenger hunt on the grounds of the school or church (cards with Bible verses on them, hunger facts, protein bars, ticket for additional water, etc.)
 - Journal about experience



- Small group discussion of what each kid takes for granted during their average day—sleeping in a comfortable bed...they sleep on the floor...having a bathroom with running water...they may not have running water...a closet full of clothes... they may have one thing to wear...can go to school...watch tv...play video games...get rides in cars...vacations...

Springtime Activities might also include:

- Plant garden (spring time version) to feed the homeless or in the fall, plant bulbs to beautify the school or church property and to remind the teens in the spring what they did in the fall.
- Mowing and taking care of the church/school property

Raise awareness of hunger in the world

- Make posters and/or signs stating how many children die every minute, how many children go hungry, and how many homeless in our local area to display as cars drive by.
- Have an area where candles are burning the entire time and blow one out every hour to represent how many children's lives that candle represented.
- Watch slide shows of the children they are helping.
- Scavenger hunt that represent something about the poor and hungry.

End of the 24-hours

- Candle circle—prayer and reflect on and share the impact this activity has had on each participant. (i.e., What surprised them, what was more difficult or easy than they originally anticipated, what are they walking away with from the event)
- A Mass with family and all event participants. Invite any donors who would like to participate.
- End fast with a bowl of rice...the meal most of our world's hungry eat once a day if they are fortunate and it is a gentle way to break the fast.

In General

- Take photos throughout the 24-hours
- Go to www.freerice.com