



Justice & Charity at Children First Study Guide

5/19/16

1. After reading the blog post on Children First, create definitions of “charity” and “justice” with your youth.
 1. Research dictionary definitions of the words;
 2. Read excerpts from this Huffington Post article (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-dreier/rosa-parks-and-mother-ter_b_1512216.html) comparing the work of Mother Teresa and Rosa Parks;
 3. Look at these scripture passages (Prov. 4:27-28, Matt. 25:35-36, Prov. 31:8-9), and determine which are talking about justice and which are talking about charity;
 4. With these sources in mind, ask your youth to come up with their own definitions (these should be somewhere along the lines of charity being relief for an immediate need, and justice meaning working towards ending the root causes of that need).
2. Which of the services provided by Children First are justice? Which are charity? Is one more necessary than the other? Can charity work and justice work ever be separated?
3. In Bob Lupton's book, *Toxic Charity*, he writes, “Becoming a neighbor to the less-advantaged people is the most authentic expression of affirmation I know-- becoming a real-life, next-door neighbor. When connected neighbors move into the struggling world of those who are poor in order to be friends...new possibilities begin to appear.”
 1. We may not be able to pick up and move and become “real-life, next-door neighbors” with our brothers and sisters on the margins, but what are some ways we can show them neighborly love?
 2. Children First has learning centers at two public housing complexes. They have “moved into the struggling world of those who are poor.” Over the many years of AYM partnering with Children First in these communities, we have become a part of their presence in that neighborhood. How can you become neighbors with the people in your community whom you're typically separated from? What organizations already have a presence there? How can you work with those organizations to break down the boundaries of poverty Children First mentions?