

“The Invisible Children”

John and his family were watching the evening news on television. The feature story was about three college students who had gone to Africa. They filmed a documentary in Uganda, a country in the middle of a civil war.

The documentary uncovered the story of the “invisible children.” These children hid from rebel soldiers so that the rebels would not force them to become soldiers. Many of the children had lost their families and were orphaned. Some were starving. “Wow!” said John. “Can you imagine living like that? They don’t even know where their next meal is coming from!”

The report was over. The newscasters broke for a commercial. The first commercial was for the newest tablet. “Oh! I need that!” said John’s older sister. The next commercial was for the latest smartphone. “I need that too!” said John’s older sister. “My cell phone is a dinosaur.”

“No,” John told her. “You want those things. You don’t need those things.” As part of the world community and the family of God, we need to work together to help others in need.

WE REACH OUT TO PEOPLE IN NEED

Many people in our world do not have the basic necessities to live with dignity. Our responsibility as Christians is to consider the needs of others over our own wants and to share our own resources with people in need.



MAKING CONNECTIONS



What we need and what we want are often very different. Many people around the world do not have what they need. It is important for Christians to know the difference between their needs and wants so that they can share with those who have greater needs.

with LANGUAGE ARTS

Working with three or four students, look at the advertisements from a popular magazine or online advertising. Analyze how the ads try to convince people that the item being advertised is a need. Write at least two questions you should ask about a product to help decide if this is a need or a want. How can you make others aware of this type of advertising? Share what you learned with your class.

with CREATIVE ARTS

Create a collage of wants and needs of people around the world. Design a map highlighting two continents. Determine the needs and wants of the people living in the countries of those continents. Use pictures and words cut out from magazines, newspaper articles, and other sources of printed media. Be sure to display your collage in the classroom or in your school.

with SOCIAL STUDIES

Work with a partner. Create twenty cards that show what you think that children your age, living in your community, need and want in order to be happy. Now sort out the cards in these categories: "Needs" and "Wants."

Working with the same partner, look up what is meant by the term "developing country." Then choose a developing country. Create twenty cards that illustrate what you think that children your age, living in that country, need and want in order to be happy. Sort out these cards as you did before.

Join with another pair of students. Talk about what you discovered.

Faith Action

What actions can you take to help meet the basic needs of others in your community? I will _____
