



Active Global Citizens

IN THIS ACTIVITY, the participants discuss characteristics of active global citizenship and research and present a study of a person or group working to create a better world.

TIME REQUIRED: 40 TO 50 MINUTES
INTENDED FOR GRADES 9-12

MATERIALS NEEDED

- » three sheets of newsprint
- » a marker
- » a roll of masking tape
- » for each small group of three, two or three newspapers and magazines that include stories of people who are making a difference in the world (another option would be to conduct an Internet search using the keywords “people making a difference” and locate stories you can print out)
- » access to the Internet (optional for a more in-depth research option)

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Activity Steps

INVITE THE PARTICIPANTS to brainstorm characteristics of active global citizens by asking the following question (write these on a sheet of newsprint and post it where all can see):

- » What do you think are some characteristics of people who proactively work to make the world a better place?

Invite a few responses to the question, and then continue by making these key points:

- » There are many ways to answer the question, “What makes active global citizens?”
- » Active global citizens are global learners: They seek to better understand the wider world.
- » Active global citizens take a stand: They have decided to not tolerate inequities and injustice.
- » Active global citizens are proactive: They work for change, one small step at a time.

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ASK THE GROUP THESE QUESTIONS:

- » Do you think this list is complete?
- » Are the three items necessary and sufficient for describing what makes an active global citizen? If not, how might we improve the list?

Allow for a few responses to these questions. Then make the following point:

- » Famed American anthropologist Margaret Mead once said: “Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
- » Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

Once again, allow for a few responses to the question.

3

ASK THE PARTICIPANTS if they can name a few people who have made a difference in the world. Some examples might include Gandhi, Mother Teresa, and Rosa Parks. Then ask the participants to identify a movement, group, or organization that has made a difference in the world. Some examples might include Amnesty International, Doctors Without Borders, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, UNICEF, World Vision, and the One Campaign.

4

INVITE THE PARTICIPANTS to form small groups of three. Tell them their task is to learn more about an individual or organization that changed the world for the better. Provide them with the newspapers and magazines you have gathered, or refer them to the Internet if computers are available. Tell the small groups they are to prepare a presentation using the following questions if they are going to share about an individual (write these on a sheet of newsprint and post it where all can see):

- » What inspired this person to do something?
- » What small first step did this person take?
- » Why did other people take up his or her cause?
- » What qualities helped this person to achieve his or her goal?
- » What roadblocks were encountered, and how did this person overcome them?
- » If you were living at the right time and place, could you see yourself being part of this person’s movement? Why or why not?

If a group is going to share about a movement or organization, the group should base its presentation on the following questions (write these on a sheet of newsprint and post it where all can see):

- » When, where, and why did this movement, group, or organization start?
- » What have been some of its major achievements to date?
- » How does the group work for change today? Include details of one current project.
- » What obstacles does the group face today, and how does it try to overcome them?

- » What can volunteers do to help this organization?
- » Could you see yourself supporting this organization? Why or why not? If yes, how?

Allow ample time for the small groups to complete the assigned task and prepare their presentations.

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GATHER THE PARTICIPANTS in a large group and invite each small group to come forward and offer its presentation. Invite comments from the participants at the end of each presentation. Conclude by noting that these examples are a reminder that one person can help to make the world a better place.

(This activity is drawn from *Working for Change: Active Global Citizenship: An Educational Resource for Young People in Grades 9–12*. Copyright © 2008 by World Vision Resources, Mail Stop 321, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716 wvresources@worldvision.org. All rights reserved.)

About World Vision

WORLD VISION IS a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organization dedicated to helping children and their families break free from poverty. Our work is motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ. We see a world where each child experiences “fullness of life” as described in John 10:10. And we know this can be achieved only by addressing the problems of poverty and injustice in a holistic way. That’s how World Vision is unique: We bring nearly sixty years of experience in three key areas needed to help children and families thrive: emergency relief, long-term development, and advocacy. And we bring *all* of our skills across many areas of expertise to each community we work in, enabling us to care for children’s physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

WORLD VISION RESOURCES educates Christians about global poverty, inspires them to social justice, and equips them with innovative resources to make a difference in the world. By developing biblically-based materials for educators and ministry leaders on the causes and consequences of global poverty, World Vision Resources supports the organizational mandate to move the church in the United States to more fully embrace its biblical responsibility to serve the poor.



*For more information about
our resources, contact:*

World Vision Resources
www.worldvision.org
wwresources@worldvision.org