

Wealth Poverty & Charity Module – synopsis.

In this module students will explore different meanings of wealth and poverty - and the tension between materialistic and non-materialistic world views. They will have the opportunity to explore a variety of interpretations and approaches put forward by different faith and belief traditions to the issues of wealth and charity. The videoconference encounter is an opportunity for students to share their thoughts on the issues that they have explored, as well as giving students the opportunity to dialogue around more challenging issues. The module concludes with an activity to encourage students to give back to their community through small but meaningful acts.

Lesson 1 Who wants to be a millionaire?

Students begin to think about the value of money and relate this to happiness. In order that students avoid the easy temptation to immediately associate wealth with greed and avarice students explore the correlation between wealth and development. Towards the end of the lesson, students do consider, using some celebrity earnings, whether some salaries are disproportionate to the work and impact that some have.

Lesson 2 How am I wealthy?

Having defined spiritual wealth and identified where they can find it in their own lives, drawing on what they have learned about happiness in their lives in lesson one, they go on to explore where they have both spiritual and material wealth in their lives. Students take this thinking further by creating their own ‘treasure chests’ which clearly show what students hold to be precious in their lives (both in a spiritual and material sense) and where they feel they are ‘poor’. Finally, students are encouraged to share their ‘treasure chests’ to find out what they have in common, where there are differences and where there are elements of shared poverty and whether they can work together to improve that.

Lesson 3 Social Justice & Fair Trade

In this lesson students explore the lives of others, perhaps in less economically developed nations, and the interconnectedness of our lives due to globalisation. Students explore the concepts of fairness and justice. Students look at how the choices they make as consumers



have can have an impact on others around the globe. They investigate what different faiths and beliefs say about fair treatment of others and reach their own conclusions about the individual and collective responsibilities of the consumer.

Lesson 4 What Does It Mean To Give?

In this lesson, students consider the different ways in which a person can give (in money, in time, in talent, in compassion) and they reflect on what it feels like to have someone show that they care about you in some way, large or small. Students explore what different faiths and beliefs say about wealth, charity and poverty. Students are encouraged to research these teachings and then share their findings with their peers. Towards the end of the lesson students should practice their dialogue skills by having a dialogue around the topic of wealth, poverty and charity and what their beliefs are on these issues.

Lesson 5 Giving Today

Students begin by defining what a charity is and identifying the charities that they know of and the work they do in their communities or elsewhere. Moving on from this, students then consider the motivations for people giving to charity. Thinking about causes that need attention in some way (whether volunteering or money) students work through a quiz to rank their top 'causes'. Because this activity is done using an online tool, students can compare their results to the 'global results' that have involved all of the schools on the Face to Faith programme. Finally, students once again practice their skills for dialogue, readying themselves for their video conference.

Lesson 6 The video conference

Here you will find guidance on how to get the best out of your students for the video conference, particularly concerning the role of the teacher during the video conference and top tips for the students.

Lesson 7 Review & Reflection

Students reflect on their learning from the videoconference through personal and group reflection. They unpack their learning by thinking about similarities and differences and how they can further build upon what they have learned. Turning their learning into action,



students are encouraged to think about how they might 'give' in a small way. Students explore the concept of altruism and the impact of doing a 'random act of kindness' or similar activity that is more culturally sensitive. Students are encouraged to share their experiences on the online community.