Shrunken World

Materials:
Information of shrunken world, Facilitator’s questions

Objective:
Opening students’ eyes to the differences of the world.

Instructions:
Take the notes provided below and use in facilitating a class discussion.

Debriefing:

- Did any of this surprise you?
- How did these numbers make you feel?
- What would these numbers mean to you?
- How would this information affect your life?

Variation:
If you would like to show a video for the shrunken world, please click the following link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6eTr4IdDYg

These notes can be organized in a fun PowerPoint. For an example PowerPoint, click here.

If we could shrink the earth’s population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like this:

There would be:

61 Asians
11 Europeans
  5 North Americans
  9 Latin or South Americans
14 Africans

50 would be female
50 would be male

1 would have HIV
26 would smoke
14 would be obese

24 would have no electricity
76 would have electricity, and most would use it only at night

82 would be non-white
18 would be white

33 would be Christian
20 would be Muslim
13 would be Hindus
  6 would be Buddhists
  2 would be Atheists
12 would be non-religious
14 would be from other religions

33 would not have access to a safe water supply
63 would have inadequate sanitation

89 would be heterosexual
11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world’s wealth
and all 6 would be from the United States

80 would live in substandard housing

50 would suffer from malnutrition

12 would have a disability
18 would have cars

1 would be near death
2 would be near birth

12 would own a computer
  7 would have access to the internet

53 would live on less than $2/day

18 would be unable to read or write
33 would have a cell phone
1 would have a college education
When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

The following is also something to ponder:

- If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more fortunate than the million who will not survive this week.

- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

- If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

- If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

- If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world’s wealthiest.

- If your parents are still alive and married, you are very rare, even in the United States and Canada.