



## WORKS OF MERCY – Guidelines for Group Leaders

### IT FITS YOU TO A T!!! “I was naked and you clothed me”

#### TO PREPARE FOR THE MEETING

##### Consumerism in a global society, the possibility of alternate choices

- "Clothes make the person": this quote can become a hard reality for teens. Teens often get a lot of peer pressure to wear a particular style of clothing or a certain kind of shoes or brand of jeans. This **need to conform in how they dress** now includes also the latest version of smartphone or tablet.
- In the economic situation of the world today, we need to question the new ways that have developed for rich countries to exploit other countries in order to get what they want. We can think of **the tragedy of child labor and the harsh working conditions in factories in developing countries**. Multinational businesses subcontract these companies to produce the clothes, toys, smartphones, etc., that are consumed in the wealthier countries.
- Therefore, it's necessary that, first of all, **we look at how much we consume**, and consider seriously our way of life and the value we give to objects. Then ask ourselves about the possibility of making our choices by limiting our consumption and only buying what we *really* need, taking into consideration the rights and needs of people around the world. If we see things from this angle, **it becomes logical and normal to share and circulate goods**, and not just something we do every once in a while.

##### What can teenagers do?

- Even teens can **experience that they find true happiness not in possessing things, but in giving**. "Giving" includes making the right choices when buying a product, or offering our talents to help others, or donating things that we really do not need, but just like to have.
- The **Gospel passage about the first Christians is always fascinating** (Acts 4:32-37). It says that they were one heart and one soul, and **no one claimed for themselves what they owned**. They shared everything so that no one was in need among them. Their example encourages us to start projects that would distribute what we really don't need to those who really do need these things.
- Every single action has an impact on the whole world. Through our commitment as individuals and with our local community, we can improve some of the injustice in the world. One course of action is **fair trade, which promotes solidarity among all nations, includes economic and political action** and empowers individuals to become agents of change. You could arrange to visit a fair trade shop or invite someone who works in this field to speak to your group.

##### Some useful texts for exploring this topic:

- Further information about working conditions in the global garment and sportswear industries can be found on the website "**Clean Clothes**". Here is the link: <https://www.google.com/#q=clean+clothes> It's very interesting!! And easy to read!



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#### BEFORE THE MEETING

Who can we involve in our local community? How?

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#### POSSIBLE STEPS TO TAKE TOGETHER (OBJECTIVES)

- Begin to evaluate our own lifestyle and what we consume
- Discover the value of the person hidden behind the clothes they wear
- Experience the happiness that comes from giving and sharing our goods and talents
- Learn how to put ourselves in the shoes of those who suffer the negative consequences of globalization

#### SUITABLE FOR TEENS:

From PPT "Heart in Action" – Slides 27 to 37 "For all those who have no clothes"

PPT "Hearts in action live" – Teens experiences of "I was naked and you clothed me" (Attachment [PPT i was naked](#))

**True happiness lies in giving**, Chiara Lubich, Supercongress gen3 (9-12 years old) Rome June 22, 2000 (Attachment\_i\_was\_ [naked R1](#))

**"The City Bundle"** Experience of gen 3 of Loppiano on sharing (Attachment\_i\_was\_ [naked R2](#))

#### Proposals for activities to help develop the meeting:

- **The shoe:** video to reflect on the culture of sharing and reciprocity. Other ideas for dialogue: excessive value you can give things or appearances. (Attachment\_i\_was\_ [naked R3](#)). Video available on the web. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HX3BVdONvZA>. With some tips on using the video during a meeting. (Attachment\_i\_was\_ [naked R3A](#))
- **Quiz on my lifestyle:** to evaluate if our daily decisions are influenced by the economy of consumption. To adapt to the situation and lifestyle of the teens in the group (Attachment\_i\_was\_ [naked R4](#))



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- **A story behind a shirt.** Activities to discover the mechanisms that lie in multinational chains of clothing and empathize with those who suffer the negative consequences (Attachment\_i\_was\_naked\_R5)
- **The game of traffic lights:** Activities for questioning the commitment of the individual and the group for the accomplishment of this work of mercy (Attachment\_i\_was\_naked\_R6)

#### EVALUATION

- Has this meeting strengthened team spirit and mutual exchange? Have confidence and mutual love grown? Have we experienced the presence of Jesus among us?
- Do we believe that the problem of those who lack necessities has become ours? Are we aware that Jesus considers done to himself any help we give to others?
- Have we put these words into practice in daily life and possibly with a specific project?
- Have we involved our local community?

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Find the material on the [site of the group leaders](#)