

Core Value
CARE AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Related Value
CREATION SPIRITUALITY

Module on
Sometimes I Wonder Why

Objectives

- To enable one to recognize the divine presence in nature and in culture
- To arouse awe and reverence for the sacredness of creation, and for cultural heritage
- To deepen awareness of the destruction caused by irresponsible human action on rural and urban environments

Content

- The State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP Report 2005
- “Sometimes I Wonder Why,” a meditative song

Procedure/Learning Activities

Conceptual Level: Knowing and Understanding

1. F invites Ps to share their views about the state of the environment in the their communities; the dangers and threats posed by human action. F elicits responses and writes them on the board.

Affective Level: Valuing

2. F leads Ps to a reflection of the above state of the environment in the rural areas and in big cities; the problems and dangers, the challenges and possible solutions, through a visualization exercise.
3. F invites Ps to go through the visualization exercise by playing the music, “Sometimes I Wonder Why” and showing its lyrics.

Sometimes I Wonder Why

I found You
In the wonders of the world
In the splendor of the city
In the monuments of history.

I saw You smile
At the glory of Your sunsets
At the majesty of the sea
At the infinity of the sky.

I felt you
In the freshness of the dawn
In the magic of the moonlight
In the power of the wind.

But now, I see Your cry
At the violence and oppression
At the planet's exploitation
At the sufferings of the poor.

Refrain 1:

Sometimes I wonder why
We want to conquer all the world
When we have not even learned
To gain conquest of ourselves.

Let's banish pride and prejudice
Cast out fears and injustices
Give up greed and selfishness

Let hatreds go!
Let hatreds go!

Refrain 2:

Sometimes I wonder why
We want to conquer outer space
When we have not even found
The inner spaces of our souls.

Oh, let us look within our hearts
Learn to love and to understand
To respect and lend a hand
To care and share.
To care and share.

Let peace prevail!
Let peace prevail

4. F requests Ps to share their experience by answering the following questions:
 - a. What images, thoughts or ideas came to your mind?
 - b. What struck you most?
 - c. What feelings were evoked? or What feelings came to you?
 - d. What messages did the song convey to you?
 - e. What insights did you gain?
5. After a few minutes, F allows Ps to share their answers with a partner.
6. F invites dyads to share with the big group.
7. F summarizes responses and makes a brief synthesis of salient points and learnings.

Active Level: Acting

8. F asks Ps to write a paragraph or two with regards to how the module has influenced or touched them, especially in their view of nature and spirituality.
9. F leads the Ps to complete the following unfinished sentences:
 - a. Now that I realize more deeply the sacredness of nature, I will . . .
 - b. To improve my relationship with others, I will. . . .
 - c. To grow in my spirituality, I will . . .
 - d. To show my respect and reverence for nature, I will. . .
10. To close the module, F may play again the song and show a Powerpoint presentation with images based on the lyrics of the song.

References

Mische, Patricia. "Toward a global spirituality" A reprinted and revised article from Global Education Associates, New York. 1998.

Quisumbing, Lourdes R. (2007). "Sometimes I wonder why" In *The bluebird sings!* Paranaque: Saranggola Publications.