

THE WEALTH WE WEAR

To get your teenagers to understand how rich we are in this country, try this idea. Have the kids total the dollar value of everything on their bodies at the moment (assessed at what the items would cost to replace). You may want to use yourself as an example. Calculate your own "worth" on the chalkboard or overhead projector.

Shirt	\$ 15
Jeans	40
Sweater	50
Socks, underwear	15
Shoes	30
Wallet	20
Watch	80
Glasses	125
Wedding ring	400
TOTAL	\$823

Teenagers dressed just casually for youth meeting will likely come up with figures over \$200. Some will have much higher totals when you consider things like contact lenses and braces.

When everyone has arrived at their totals, mention that the average annual income in many third-world nations is between \$200 and \$400—which means that most of us are walking around with more wealth on our bodies than many millions of people earn in a year. Ask your students to then imagine trying to convince these third worlders that they aren't really rich.

Your kids will leave with a new perspective of their lifestyle.