

## **Lesson 2**

### **Caught in the Net**

**Age/Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

#### **Lesson Objective:**

**Participants will learn more about malaria, who it affects and how the use of nets can help prevent the disease.**

#### **Materials Needed**

A shallow bowl or plate filled with water

Black Pepper

Liquid dishwashing detergent

Net to hang on the wall or lay on the floor. (Any kind of net will work. They can be purchased from party supply stores, sporting goods stores or for an economical alternative use a net bath sponge and cut it apart.)

#### **Supplemental Materials Needed**

*Life in Ghana*

*Maame's Special Gift*

#### **As the students arrive**

Pass out the Earth Window Clings from last week's lesson review last week's lesson. Remind them that the window clings will serve as reminders of the issues surrounding malaria worldwide.

#### **Lesson Content**

Tell them you are going to read aloud a story based on a true event that happened in 2005 in Kumasi, Ghana, Africa. Show them on the map where this is.

Read aloud, *Maame's Special Gift*

#### Discuss

Review the information about how malaria is spread.

#### Ask:

What ways are your life different than that of Kwame and his brothers?

What misunderstanding did they have about malaria (bad air)?

#### Object Lesson:

Fill a bowl or dish with water. Sprinkle pepper all over the top. Before the next step have students hypothesize about what will happen when you put the drops of liquid on the water. Put several drops of liquid detergent into the center of the water. Watch what happens. Ask the student to describe what happened. Were any of their guesses correct? Tell them to imagine that the pepper represents mosquitoes and the detergent represents insecticide. For those needing it, define insecticide.

### Nets activity

Tell the students that you are going to illustrate a point made in the story. Ask them to sit quietly and tell them that on a signal you will have them come forward and stand in front of (or on) the net. Count out 30 second intervals until all the students are on or near the net. You may have them do it in pairs, threes, etc. to save time if your group is very large. The objective is to show them how many children are dying in Africa in such a short amount of time.

Ask

Do you want to help?

Note: Fundraising may be done at any time during the course of this study. Greater involvement from students should occur if they have had an opportunity to understand the impact their support can make. The feedback you get from students during this session may be enough to create that interest. At this point you may want to distribute collection envelopes or containers for students to begin collecting money to bring to the next class session.

### Optional or Alternate Activities

- *Collection Envelopes* – You may want to save this activity for next week.
- Students who have access to the Internet may want to do some of their own research and bring additional information to the class next week. There are suggested websites in the bibliography. Many search engines such as Google, Yahoo, Lycos, MyExcite, etc. will return numerous sites with lots of information.

### Application / Closure

Next session we will be discussing the ideas we will use to help raise funds. We will also be planning a way to advertise our efforts and doing some comparisons about our way of life and that of the children in Ghana, Africa.