



Understanding the Concept of Worldview

Read the following story to the group.

The Monkey and the Fish

There was a monkey who was out and about doing his usual monkey things. A big storm came up. He found a secluded, dry place under a big tree on top of the river bank. He was very pleased with his hiding place from the storm. While he was sitting in his dry, safe place, the monkey looked into the river and saw a fish. The fish would struggle to swim upstream, then he would float downstream. The fish would then struggle to swim back upstream. The monkey watched this several times and thought the fish was in big trouble. The monkey went out onto a rock in the river, reached into the water and took the fish back up with him to the safe, dry, secluded place under the tree. The fish flopped around for awhile until it finally lay still in complete rest. The monkey was very pleased and proud of himself for saving the fish and doing a nice thing for him.

Ask the following questions:

- What are some of the positive things about the monkey?
(Good intentions, compassionate, courageous, decided to act on the need he saw.)
- What were some of the monkey's assumptions?
(Fish was struggling; fish was like him; what was good for him was good for the fish.)
- Where did the monkey get his assumptions?
(How he grew up; his personal experiences; his culture; lack of exposure to other cultures.)
- What was the reality of the situation?
(They lived in different environments and had different needs.)
- What are some of your assumptions about West Africa and the people there?
(Possible answers: poor, unhappy, lost, need help for a better life.)
- How do we keep our assumptions from becoming a hindrance?
(Remembering that just because their life is different doesn't mean it is wrong.)