What if…

Instead of going to school you had to work all day, from **sunup to sundown**. You couldn’t play with friends, read your favorite book, or give your teacher a hug. You couldn’t learn how to read or write (This means no reading comic books or texting friends...yep, think about it) and you wouldn’t have a chance to have recess, play sports, or play an instrument.

Kids2Kids Current Affairs Project

**Modern Day Slavery**
(or Human Trafficking)

**Question?**
How would you feel if you **weren’t allowed** to go to school?

At first you might say…

**OMG!**

**LIKE!**

But think about it a little further…
There are some children in our world that are not allowed to go to school. In fact, they DO have to work ALL day. Some pick coffee beans, others make cocoa for the chocolate that we eat, others have to make rugs all day long, and other children have to do things for adults that make the children feel uncomfortable.

This is where chocolate comes from: Beans! Children pick the beans all day long. See the activity below to see where you can get FAIR TRADE chocolate.

The children are not given a choice about the work they have to do. Their human rights are being VIOLATED. This means they do not have the safety, food, shelter, and education that ALL people have a right to have.
This is also known as...

Modern Day Slavery.

Here is what you can do to make a difference in the lives of these children and for their stories to make a difference in your life...

1. PRAY
   - on your own
   - with friends
   - with adults
   - with your church
Chocolate companies like Hershey’s and Nestle have been working hard to make sure they are aware of where their chocolate is grown. But they still have A LOT of work to do. Chocolate companies are still buying the chocolate beans from people who use children as slaves. **You can help by...**

1) Looking for one of the labels you see below. If these are on the chocolate bar it means no slaves were used to gather the beans. It’s called Fair Trade.

2) Writing the chocolate companies and encouraging them to keep working on ending child slavery in the chocolate fields.
   - **The Hershey Company**, 100 Crystal A Drive, Hershey, PA 17033
   - **Nestle Company**, 800 North Brand Boulevard Floor 16 Glendale, CA 91203
   - **M&M (Mars)** 800 High St Hackettstown, NJ 07840

3) Dress up as a Fair Trade chocolate bar for Halloween and teach people about how to look for Fair Trade chocolate when they shop. **Don’t eat any chocolate from your Halloween bag that does not have the Fair Trade symbol.** (Ask your friends to join you...it will help!)

4) Challenging yourself, friends, and people from your church to stop eating chocolate for a day, a week, a month a year! And tell people why!
KNOW EVERYONE’S BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

Read the flyer on the right. Talk with your parents or adults at church about these rights.

- How have you experienced these rights?
- Have you ever had these rights taken away?
- Do you know others whose rights have been taken away?
- What do you think you can do to help that?

Another place you can read rights that are specifically for children is here:

**Iqbal**  
by Francesco D'Adamo

When young Iqbal is sold into slavery at a carpet factory, his arrival changes everything for the other overworked and abused children there. Iqbal inspires the other children to look to a future free from toil...and is brave enough to show them how to get there.

**A Song for Cambodia**  
by Michelle Lord

The inspirational true story of Arn Chorn-Pond who was forced to work in the rice fields. His heartfelt music created beauty in a time of darkness and turned tragedy into healing.

**Fifty Cents and a Dream**  
by Jabari Asim

Born into slavery, young Booker T. Washington could only dream of learning to read and write. After emancipation, Booker began a five-hundred-mile journey, mostly on foot, to Hampton Institute, taking his first of many steps towards a college degree. When he arrived, he had just fifty cents in his pocket and a dream about to come true. The young slave who once waited outside of the schoolhouse would one day become a legendary educator of freedmen.
Go to the link above and start sending letters!
The letters ask companies to make sure the products they are using are Slave Free.

The more we, as the people who buy things from companies, say what we do not accept, the more the companies will change their actions and policies!

You can challenge your friends or church members to write one letter every day.

There are many organizations already helping to end Modern Day Slavery. You can help them by having a fundraiser and sending them the money you raise.

Here are a few wonderful organizations:

http://globalministries.org/give/global-ministries-projects.html

www.freethechildren.com
(This organization was started by a sixth grader. So cool.)

www.stopthetraffik.org

For fundraising ideas go here:
www.better-fundraising-ideas.com/fundraising-ideas-for-kids.html


Or make up your own!
MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Refugee Resettlement
  www.exodusrefugee.org/getinvolved.html

- Get Informed: What Are Other People Doing?
  http://richmondconfidential.org/2014/01/17/
  fifth-grade-class-combats-child-labor
  www.netsmartzkids.org
  www.nsteens.org