

GOD Atheist Role Play

Sometimes it's a good idea to force kids to think through their reasons for believing in God (if they say they do) and to strengthen those beliefs. In addition, it is important to take kids a step further and help them see how their belief (or non-belief) in God makes a difference in the way they live.

Pair the kids off for a role play. One person takes the role of an atheist (a person who does not believe in God) and

the other is a believer. One pair at a time, in front of the entire group, each student in a pair tries to convince the other one that his view is the correct one. Allow about three minutes per pair.

After everyone has taken a turn,

ask one of the youth sponsors to come before the entire group and take the position of the atheist. The group must try to convince him that he is wrong. Since the kids have had some practice in their individual role plays, they should be well equipped to the job.

For the next step give the kids pencils and paper to write down five things that would change in their lives if they knew for certain that there were no God. What difference would it make in the way they lived? Then ask them to write down five things that would probably change in their lives if they knew for a fact that God exists. In other words, would they live differently if, by appearing in the sky or talking out loud, God left absolutely no doubt that he

exists? How would they behave differently?

After the kids compare their own two lists and discuss the differences between both lists and the way they live right now, open further discussion with questions like the following:

1. On the basis of the arguments you've heard, do you believe in God or not? (Take a secret ballot vote if you want.)
2. Is it possible to "abstain" in a vote for or against the existence of God? In other words, can a person just not have an opinion? What are the consequences of such a position?
3. In what ways does how you believe affect the way you live right now?