

Rotating Fear

This activity directs kids in evaluating the place fear should have in a person's life. Set up eight discussion centers around the room (fewer if your group is small). Write the statements below on 3 x 5 cards—one per card—and place one card at each center. Beside the statement card stack eight blank cards.

Divide the young people into eight small groups that will move from one center to another every five minutes. At each discussion center the group will talk about one of the eight statements (each center has a different statement), decide to agree or disagree with the statement, and record its decision.

Begin with one small group in each discussion center. When the leader blows a whistle or claps her hands, each group reads the statement at its center and then discusses the validity of the statement for five minutes. When the leader says "Vote" the groups must stop discussing, vote to agree or disagree with their statement, and record their vote on a blank card. When the leader claps again, each group rotates to the next center and repeats the procedure.

After each group has been through all eight areas, bring them together as a

large group to tally the votes on each statement and share the findings. Discuss each statement further.

1: You're riding on Space Mountain at Disney World. You find yourself screaming at the top of your lungs—in real fear. This fear is stupid. You should try your best to ignore it or repress it.

2: You've watched horror movies about people being possessed by the devil. Demonic possession scares you. It sounds horrible and frightening. Actually, you shouldn't be afraid.

3: You've just been caught skipping class. You face a chance of being suspended. You're scared. You ought to be.

4: You've just returned from a tent revival meeting. The preacher talked about Hell and its horrors. The talk scared you. You don't want to go to Hell. You shouldn't be afraid.

5: "There is no fear in love: but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment. And the one who fears is not perfected in love." 1 John 4:18

6: You just read about an ax murderer. Later you're walking down a dark street,

and you remember what you just read. You begin to wonder if the murderer is nearby. You begin to feel terribly afraid. This fear is childish. You should try to ignore or repress your fear.

7: "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?" Psalm 27:1. According to this, Christians should fear nothing.

8: Fear is good.