

THE PARENT-YOUTH GAME

by Gary Moran

PURPOSE

To relax and enjoy the fellowship of youth and parents.

PREPARATION

Gather a Bible for the closing devotion, blackboard or newsprint to use as scoreboard, a lectern, tables and chairs.

Set the two tables at the front of the room with four chairs behind each with a lectern in the middle. Place a blackboard nearby.

Assign a youth to read 1 Peter 5:1-7 and a parent to read 1 Timothy 4:12, and have them prepare a closing devotional based on the two scripture passages.

Select four parents and their children to play the game that is explained in the Opening.

Bring gifts to award to the winning team.

OPENING

Begin with a prayer of thanks for this fun opportunity to gather as families. Ask God to bless everyone at the meeting.

Explain the rules of the game. The youth will leave the room while their parents answer four questions. The youth enter and try to guess their parents' answers. Next, the parents leave and the young people answer four questions. Their parents enter and try to guess their children's answers.

The object of this contest, based

on the **Newlywed Game** television show, is to see which youth-parent team can answer the most questions. Announce that there will be prizes for the winning team.

THE "MEAT" OF THE MEETING

The four young people leave the room and their parents answer the following questions:

- My child's favorite singing group is . . .
- My child would be most likely to admire:
 1. Superman
 2. a muscle builder
 3. a scientist
- The funniest thing I've ever seen my child do is . . .
- My child thinks of his or her parents as:
 1. a clean-up crew
 2. spies
 3. award-winners

The youth return and try to answer as their parents answered.

Next, the parents leave and the youth answer the following:

- If my family's life was a television show, it would be most like . . .
- My dad would most like to be:
 1. a newsman
 2. a sports hero
 3. a movie star

- My mom would rather:
 1. knit something useful
 2. spend a night on the town
 3. go on an African safari
- If I compared my life with that of my parents when they were my age, theirs would seem:
 1. embarrassingly tame
 2. about the same as mine
 3. unmentionably wild

The parents then return and try to answer as their children answered.

Award the winning team with prizes.

RESPONSE (OR CLOSING)

The parent and teenager chosen during the Preparation will read the scripture passages and give their devotional.

For a closing prayer, try an open-ended sentence such as: "Dear Lord, thank you for parents because . . ., thank you for young people because . . ."