

THE DECISIONS GAME

by Patrick M. Mulcahy

PURPOSE

To help the youth make decisions on the basis of their religious beliefs as Christians.

PREPARATION

You will need a Bible, paper and pencil for each person.

OPENING

Begin with the Indoor Scavenger Hunt game. Form teams of four to six. Ask for the following items, and the first person to find the item wins a point for his or her team. All items must come from pockets or purses.

Items can include: a picture of someone's mother, a purple comb, a pen with green ink, a 1971 penny, a school identification card from the previous year, or a Social Security card.

THE "MEAT" OF THE MEETING

Read Matthew 6:24-34 and discuss:

- What is the main message?
- How does it apply today?
- Do we worry too much about our next meal, clothing and other necessities? Why or why not?
- Do you think God will provide these things for us if we turn to him? Why or why not? How can we be sure?
- What should worry us?

Elaborate

Distribute paper and pencils. Have the youth tear the paper into five slips. Tell them you've taken over the world and will provide them with only the basic necessities of clothing, food and shelter. They are to write on the slips of paper five other things they want to keep. Everything else will be taken away. Next say you've changed your mind and will only allow them to keep four items. Have the youth tell which ones they would relinquish and then tear up that paper. Now repeat the process saying they can only keep three items. Continue until they have only one left. Say you would never ask them to give up the most important things in their lives, but you'd like to hear what it was anyway. Discuss what they kept and their reasonings.

RESPONSE (OR CLOSING)

Read the following letter that could be published in an advice column:

Help!

I don't know what to do.

I am a junior in high school and just got a job at a department store. I earn about \$60 a week and can't decide what to do with the money.

It's not that I don't have anything to spend my money on—I just can't decide what to spend it on. I have to save for college because my parents

can't help me, I could use a car to get around and I'd like some spending money for records, clothing and stuff like that.

The other day I saw a magazine advertisement with a starving child from one of the Third World nations. It talked about how I could give so much of my money to help the kid. Then I got to thinking about how many people could use money—people that are a lot worse off than

I am.

What should I do?

Jim

Have each person write what he or she would tell Jim to do. Have each youth read his or her response and discuss these.

Close with a prayer that the Spirit will help us make decisions based on storing treasures in heaven.