

THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE

The following idea is designed to stimulate discussion and insight into the subject of God's will. To begin, have the kids write down a question or problem that requires knowledge of the will of God. For example: "Should I go to college next year or should I join the Marines?" If the group feels comfortable doing so, have the kids share these questions with each other.

Next, give each person a sealed envelope with her name on it. Label it "Enclosed: The Will of God." Instruct kids to keep the envelopes sealed for now.

Discuss the following questions:

- If your envelope truly contained the will of God for your life, what do you think it would say?
- What would you like it to say?
- Why is it important to seek God's will for questions such as those we expressed? Isn't our own judgement good enough?
- Does God always have a will for us in every situation?

After the discussion, tell kids that, believe it or not, the envelope does contain God's will for them. They can now open up the envelopes. Inside is a piece of paper that reads (in big block letters):

PRAYER

THE WORD

CIRCUMSTANCES

ADVICE

Help the kids to see that those four words do indeed represent God's will for their particular situations. Through prayer we make our needs known to God, and God speaks to us when we pray as well. Through the Word we learn basic principles that we know to be the revealed will of God. Through circumstances we see God leading us. This is the "open door, closed door" idea. Through the advice of parents, pastors, and Christian friends, God speaks to us as well. You can elaborate on these.

You can adapt this basic idea any way you wish. You might want to save the envelopes until last—delivered by a mailman of some kind, direct from heaven. The point of the envelopes is to emphasize that God's will is not just an abstract thought but something that God wants us to receive and to understand.