

Bug Me's

Here's a conversation catalyst for a youth-parent night to show it's often the little things we do that bug others in our family and that little irritations can lead to major problems.

Pass out copies of the "Bug Me" sheet shown on the next page for both kids and parents fill out. Collect and review them quickly to find out the most common responses for each question.

Next, divide into small groups and assign each one a different "Bug Me." One group, for example, might be given the most common answer to the first question on the list—"People taking too long in the bathroom in the mornings." That group discusses the following three questions about the "Bug Me" they received: 1) Is this a legitimate "Bug

Me"? 2) What is the underlying problem and attitude causing this "Bug Me"? 3) What advice would the group give for solving the problem?

Finally, have each group share its answers with the others. Lead the group to recognize the pattern in the answers: The root problems behind most family "Bug Me's" are selfishness and thoughtlessness.

FAMILY IRRITATIONS

"Bug Me's"

1. What bugs you most at your house before school and work in the mornings?
2. What bugs you most at the family dinner table?
3. What bugs you most about your family on Sundays?
4. What bugs you most on family vacations?
5. What bugs you most about how parents communicate with their kids? (Youth answer only.)
6. What bugs you most about how kids communicate with their parents? (Parents answer only.)
7. What bugs you most about your family when it comes to household chores?
8. What bugs you most about your family when your friends are around you and your family?
9. What bugs you most during the times of deep family discussion (fights)?
10. What bugs you most about how your parents try to relate to or understand you kids? (Kids answer only.)
11. What bugs you most about how your kids try to relate to or understand you parents? (Parents answer only.)
12. What bugs you most at your house just around bedtime?