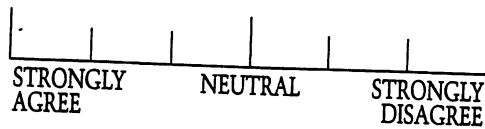


Continuum: Cleaning Up Your Act

DISCUSSION TECHNIQUES

For a lively discussion on a variety of topics, have your group decide whether they agree or disagree with the following 12 statements. Type the statements on a sheet of paper with an agree/disagree continuum for the kids to mark their positions [see example].



positions on each statement, ask the kids to defend their positions in a group discussion. It is wise for you as leader to think through your own position on each statement ahead of time. In addition choose Scripture passages that shed some light on the issues being discussed.

When they have chosen their

1. Pigging out is as wrong as smoking or drinking.
2. While you were walking home one night, a thief jumped from the shadows and demanded all your money. You gave your wallet to the man. He looked in the wallet and asked, "Is this all the money you have on you?" You said, "Yes," and the thief left with bitter threats. You had lied to the man; you had \$20 tucked away in your shirt pocket. Was that wrong?
3. To goof off on your job is as wrong as stealing money from your boss.
4. There are degrees of sin with God, so he doesn't really sweat the little sins we commit.
5. As Christians we are to obey all people who are in a position of authority over us, including police officers, parents, and teachers.
6. Your family is late for church, so instead of driving at the 40 mph speed limit, your dad drives at 55. Because you are rushing to a worship service, this is not wrong.
7. Going into your history final, you're just squeezing by with a C. Passing or failing this test could mean the difference between passing or failing the course. During the test you get a few answers from a friend's paper. As you walk out after the test you know you have failed. In this case it is not necessary to confess cheating to the teacher.
8. God made man and woman for each other. God has also created some very attractive bodies. It's okay to lust after someone you see because actually you're just admiring God's creation.
9. A girl is very much in love with her boyfriend, and he has said he loves her so much he would like to marry her eventually. Because she's in love and expects to marry this boy, her body belongs to him for the asking.
10. There is a guy at school who really gets on your nerves. Every time you see him you could punch his lights out. In fact, sometimes you wish he didn't exist. The bitterness you have for this guy is as sinful as if you actually killed him.
11. God doesn't exactly expect you to live as much like Jesus at home as outside the home. After all, we are supposed to be witnesses to all the world, not to our own family.
12. Jesus whipped the money-changers in the temple and chased them out. So it's okay to be obnoxious or cruel if the other person deserves it.

How to Brainstorm

Use this simple technique any time you need a bunch of ideas on any one topic:

1. Make sure everyone understands exactly what the topic or problem is. Write it down so everyone can see it.
2. Allow a few minutes for individuals to write down as many ideas on their own as they can—the crazier the ideas, the better.
3. Ask each person to give you one idea from his list that he really likes. Write each idea on a chalkboard, overhead, or flip chart.
4. Using the list you just made as a springboard, ask the group to toss out as many ideas as they can about each idea on the board. At this point, don't let kids judge an idea as good or bad.
5. If you need more ideas, repeat the process for each person's second best idea.
6. Once you have exhausted the group's new ideas, ask everyone to choose the ideas from the list that best fit the topic or problem you outlined in step 1.
7. Refine the ideas you just listed. ◇