

Relay Discussion

Set up two, three, or four chairs (no more) in front of your group. Select a person to sit in each chair. Explain that in a relay discussion only the people in the chairs up front can speak; everyone else listens.

To start the kids talking, read aloud agree/disagree statements or statements that beg debate or discussion. The people up front begin discussing your statement (if the kids are shy, ask one of them by name to state her opinion). If a speaker doesn't want to discuss an issue, he may tap the shoulder of anyone in the audience, signaling that person to take his place up front. If someone in the audience wants to respond to the discussion, she may run up front and replace any person there. *Only the people in the front chairs may speak!*

When you sense the discussion slowing down, throw out a new statement. Or stimulate give-and-take by assigning different points of view to the speakers or labeling certain chairs "agree" and "disagree." Here are some sample discussion statements:

1. Jesus identified more with the lifestyle of the poor than the rich; therefore, poor people make better Christians.
2. The reason a church runs a youth program is to prove to itself that it is doing something for young people.
3. A Christian should obey his government, even if it violates the authority of the Scripture.
4. The decision to abort should be left to the parents or parent of the fetus.
5. Bad language is cultural and is thus not un-Christian.
6. Physical violence can be justified by a Christian if it is in self-defense.
7. It is wrong for a Christian to drink alcoholic beverages.
8. Christianity is the only religion through which a person can get to heaven.
9. Our parents discipline us because they are trying to do what is best for us.