

Time Machine

Discussing the following story reveals to kids what they value in a person as well as forces them to talk through disagreement to come to a group consensus.

There is about to be a nuclear holocaust. The human race as we know it will be totally wiped out. However, 10 people have discovered a way to survive by getting into a time machine, which will take them into the future, where they can start the human race all over again. The ten people are:

1. An accountant
2. His pregnant wife
3. A liberal arts coed
4. A pro basketball player
5. An intelligent female movie star
6. A black medical student
7. A famous novelist
8. A biochemist
9. A 70-year-old clergyman
10. An armed policeman

Unfortunately, at the last minute, it is discovered that the machine will only take six people instead of the original ten. Your group's job is to decide which six will be saved and which four must die. You have 30 minutes in which to decide.

Disregarding the technicalities of the story, each small group of four or five is to choose the six people they feel should go in the time machine. At the end of the time period, the groups discuss their choices with the entire group.

After each group shares its selections, ask questions for further discussion: How did your group get along during the process of making a decision? Did you listen to each other, or were you so stubborn that no progress was made? Did you feel that no one would listen to you? Did you feel that you had the right answers? Are there in fact any right answers? What do your selections teach you about your values?