

What Would You Do If?

A Role-play game – by Erica Stoltzfus

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

Collect a number of items that could reflect a problem in a teenager's life: a cigarette box, a gossip note about a friend, a condom, a beer can, a plastic bag with a powdery white substance, a suicide note, a pregnancy test kit, and other items you can think of. If you don't feel comfortable bringing these items, just write them on a slip of paper. Place the items in a bag or covered box.

Pencils and paper

HOW TO PLAY:

Divide the youth into groups of 4-6 people. Give each group the following scenario and an object:

You are at your best friend's house. Your friend opens their closet to get something out and you see this object. What do you do?

Have them discuss within their groups what they would do (they don't necessarily all have to agree within the group or come to a consensus). Have each group share their scenario, object, and how they think it should be handled.

Hand out paper and pencils and ask each person to write down a situation or item (other than those used already) that they or someone they know has experienced that could be a problem. The point of this second part of the game is to get youth to think about real life experiences with friends and how to handle them. Examples could include being concerned about a person they are dating, a destructive activity they are involved in, talking about other friends in a negative way, etc.

Collect all of the papers, then lead a group discussion about the items and scenarios. Be sure to disguise anything that might be too personal for the group to discuss.

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON FRIENDSHIP:

- 1** What SHOULD a friend do in these situations?
- 2** How might this incident affect your relationship?
- 3** Proverbs 17:17 says that a friend loves at all times. What does it mean to love your friend in light of the activity we just did? Was your response loving—that is, did it have their best interests in mind?

- 4 Does any of this make a difference if the friend is Christian or not? How might things be different between a Christian and a non-Christian friend?
- 5 Be open to other things that the youth want to discuss about friendship too.