

Video—Or Not **by Chloe Martin and Carol Duerksen**

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- 1 Video cameras.
- 2 One adult for each group of 6-8 youth.
- 3 Instructions printed for each group.
- 4 Scriptures chosen that will be shared with persons the youth meet. These should be scriptures about Jesus' love for everyone.
- 5 Plan for an event (a meal, game night, etc) to which you will invite persons in the community that you contact.

THE ACTIVITY:

Divide the group into smaller groups of 6-8, with one adult in each group. Give half of the groups a video camera. Explain the activity:

The groups with video cameras will follow the instructions on their sheets, and they will ask permission to video tape the people they interact with. The groups without video cameras will simply follow the instructions on the sheets. All groups should pay close attention to how the people they talk to react to them.

Take groups to a residential neighborhood in your city. Send them in different directions so they aren't covering the same streets. Give a set time when they need to be back. Lead them in a prayer before they go out.

DISCUSSION:

Gather together to discuss what happened during the activity.

- How did people respond in general?
- Did the video cameras affect how people related to the youth? In what ways?
- Did being taped affect their ability to relate to the people? Did it feel "invasive" or did it make it more fun?
- Did people feel free to share prayer requests?
- What were the responses regarding coming to the event at the church?
- What were the responses to the offer to come back and help with something at their home?

- How did this activity work, in general? What could have improved it?
- Does technology sometimes get in the way of people relating to each other? Give examples.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Knock on the doors of homes in the neighborhood. Explain that you are part of a church youth group, and you would like to:

- Collect an item for the local food pantry, soup kitchen or shelter—such as a box of macaroni and cheese, a can of soup, a package of ramen noodles, a can of vegetables, or cash.
- Pray with them for something that they would like to be prayed for.
- Share a scripture and invite them to the event at your congregation.
- Ask if they need help with anything that the youth or church members could come back and do for them. (Yard work, wash windows, etc.)

(After explaining why they are there, the groups with the cameras ask “How would you feel about us videotaping this time together?” Depending on the person’s answer, they would tape the time they spend there. Groups should keep track of people’s responses to being taped.)