

Dare to be Radical

by Carol Duerksen and Abby Kline

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- Copies of the article at the end of this lesson OR the spring 2009 issue of *With Magazine*.
- Place the truth and dare questions on small slips of paper and then place the slips into two separate hats or bags, one for truth and one for dare.
- Bibles.

SESSION OUTLINE

FOCUS AND EXPLORE:

- 1 Play Truth or Dare. Ask youth to sit in a circle and then go to each youth member to choose from one of the hats. Have the youth read it and answer or respond to the suggested action. Remember if the youth gets the truth wrong, he/she needs to pull one from the dare hat. (Bibles may not be used to answer the truth questions initially but they may be used to confirm whether the answer is correct. Answers are found in Matthew 5, 6, 7.)
- 2 Hand out the copies of the article or *With Magazines*. Read the "Snapshot" article and answer the questions in your group.

APPLY AND RESPOND:

Read all of the Dare options and ask students to commit to one of them for the following week. Spend some time praying for each other, asking for strength to carry through on their Dare commitments.

TRUTH QUESTIONS:

- 1 Jesus said "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for_____."
- 2 Jesus said: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called_____."
- 3 Jesus said: "You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you: _____."
- 4 Jesus said: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But _____."

- 5 Jesus said "Where your treasure is, _____."
- 6 Jesus said: "You cannot serve both God and _____."
- 7 Tell the story that Jesus told about the speck of sawdust and the plank.
- 8 Tell the story that Jesus told about the houses built on sand and on rock. What did he compare those houses to?
- 9 Jesus said: "If you forgive someone who sins against you, then _____.
But if you do not forgive someone who sins against you, then _____."
- 10 What did Jesus say about revenge

DARES:

(Youth who draw these must report back next week about what they did.)

- Share about Jesus to unbelieving friend and report back next week.
- Fast from using your cell phone for a week
- Give half of your allowance/paycheck to a church or charity
- Spend 2 hours outside of Wal-mart or a local grocery store, offering to help carry groceries.
- Go through a fast food drive-through and leave five dollars for the person behind you
- Fast from video games or computer games for a week
- Go to a local retirement home and play games with some of the senior citizens.
- Spend 15 minutes in prayer each day for the next week.
- Collect food for a local agency in the community
- Fast from Facebook, IM, Zanga, MySpace, or any other personal profile for a week
- Go to the playground and be a designated merry-go-round pusher for an hour
- Help a person with yard work or washing windows
- Ask someone that you've hurt or offended to forgive you.

Session Reproducibles

SNAPSHOT – WITH SPRING 2009

This issue's "Snapshot" features the youth group from Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, Kansas. Katherine Goerzen is the youth pastor.

Left to right, back row: Philip Harms, Elizabeth Martin, Travis Kochenower, Brittany Claassen, Emily Toews, Melinda Regehr, Kari Thiessen; middle row: David Janzen, Grant Hill, Cody Claassen, Casey Schunn, Mikayla Hiebert, Courtney Claassen, Amanda Regehr, Katie Regier; front row: Emily Klassen, Josh Toews, Curtis Toews, Olivia Wallace, Samantha Claassen.

What does it mean to be radical?

- It means going above and beyond the normal Christian, being more like Jesus, and following God's will.
- A radical Christian follows Jesus' teaching to a T and follows God's will, not his or her own.
- Radical Christians are very strong and extreme in their beliefs.
- It means you are strong in your faith and not afraid to show it. You're accepting of everyone. But we think that some people take this to the extreme; we don't ever want to be pushy.

How does a "radical Christian youth" differ from other youth?

- It means to show faith even in difficult situations, to show people attention who don't get enough attention, and to not care what other people think about our actions.
- Radical Christian youths' language and behavior are different. They are kinder, more positive, and merciful (and don't tease or taunt others).
- They don't blend in with the crowd. They aren't afraid to make their beliefs heard.
- We think that they just show it more through their actions than other kids: showing love to everyone and focusing on God on a daily basis.

When it comes to being a Christian, what are you most passionate about (like peacemaking, or inviting people to Christ or social justice, etc.)? Do you think that your passion is radical compared to other Christians?

- We're passionate about showing people God. Our passion is not as radical as it could be, but we are not supposed to compare ourselves to other people.

Session Reproducibles

- We're passionate about peacemaking, social justice, and inviting people to Christ.
- We're passionate about being kind and showing Christ's love to others and being inviting. We try to be radical, but we're not quite there.
- Most of us are passionate about going on missions to bring others to Christ. But even though we don't think we are as radical as some people out there, we're willing to improve.

Who do you know who is doing something or living in a way that you admire? (Who makes you say, "Now those people are truly living out their faith!") What are they doing?

- People from our community and our youth leaders, because they're using their actions for the good of God, they are including of everyone, and aren't afraid to go out and be an example for others.
- People from our high school and youth leaders because they are pursuing belief and faith by acting out their beliefs.
- People from our community because they are kind, out-reaching, and always there for you.
- Karen Kingsbury because she is showing Christ's love in the ways conflicts are solved through Christ's love in her books.
- Youth leaders and people from high school because they are just so open about their faith and not afraid of what others think about it.

Do you feel that you are committed to being different as a Christian? Do you feel committed to be radical? Why or why not?

- Not radical, because we don't go out of our way and step out of our comfort zones to witness to others.
- As Christians, we try to be different, but at some point we lost track and aren't perfect Christians. Everyone tries to be radical, but no one can be as radical as Jesus.
- I feel that I'm in a place between being an average Christian and a radical Christian. I feel that, with my personality, that's okay.
- We feel like we are committed, but we're at this level, and it's just a slow process. We all want to become more radical Christians than we are now, though.

Session Reproducibles

Is being a Christian too easy? Why or why not?

- Yes. We live in a Christian society, but we still deal with troubles and crises at school.
- People can make it as hard or easy as they want it to be. If you want to be a mediocre Christian, that's easy. But being a radical Christian is hard.
- No, you'll always find more obstacles in your life. That is when your faith is tried.
- Nope, because if it was too easy, none of us would even try to become better people. It's easy to say you're a Christian, but it's not easy to do.

How much are you willing to give up for your faith? Comfort? Your lifestyle? Money? Your life?

- Everyone would like to be able to say we can give everything up for God, but we can never actually know until we're tried. We'd like to think we could do it.
- The main thing that most Christians can give up is time. Radical Christians should be able to give up everything. Giving up anything and doing your best makes Jesus happy. You don't necessarily have to give up everything.
- We want to be willing to give up all of these—money being the easiest, and death the hardest.

What is one aspect of being a Christian that you wish you were more committed to but something you just don't do in your life or do enough of?

- Showing faith at school and standing up for what you believe in.
- Serving others. Getting out of our comfort zones is hard.
- We wish we could find the time to read through the whole Bible and just read the Bible more in general. We would also like to spend more time listening to what God wants us to do.
- Forgiveness and not holding grudges against people, and just being more willing to talk with people you are close to, especially about God.