

Community (25 Minutes)

Have you ever

1. Gone a week without brushing your teeth?
2. Laughed so hard you wet your pants?
3. Worn the same pair of socks more than two days in a row?
4. Stayed out past curfew?
5. Used the snooze button on your alarm clock more than two times?
6. Eaten two large pizzas in one sitting?
7. Had your mother pick out your clothes to wear the next day to high school?
8. Lied to a teacher, coach, or school administrator?
9. Spent more than \$500 in one day, not including cars?
10. Given more than \$100 at one time?

Shopping Spree

Give each team or person:

10 pennies = \$1 per penny
6 nickels = \$5 per nickel
6 dimes = \$10 per dime
2 quarters = \$25 per quarter
Total = \$150 = allowance per one month

Place cups or bowls with signs on the front based on the sixteen items below. If in teams, they must agree on which cups to spend their money in, from the list below. Encourage your teens to put money in the cups where they *actually* spend their money, not where they *should* spend their money.

- Clothes
- Movies: Renting, Buying, PPV, Theater
- Food, Fast Food, Snacks
- Car: Gas, Payment, Insurance
- Video/Computer Games/Software
- Vacations, Day Trips
- Youth Activities
- Tithe
- Girlfriend/Boyfriend
- Other Giving
- CDs, Music
- Stereo Equipment, TVs, etc.
- Bathroom Stuff, Hair Gel, etc.
- Magazines, Books, Reading Materials
- Sports
- School

Consider the following statistics for teens in America:

- 74% have savings accounts, 31 percent checking accounts, and 16 percent own stock
- 67% indicate that they influence household buying decisions
- 49% report having a job during the school year
- 35% indicate that they receive an allowance

- 11% own credit cards, with the percentage increasing with age

Question & Answer Game

Give everybody a 3x5 card and ask half the group to write a question beginning with the word **how**, have the other half of the group write an answer using the word **by**.

BIBLE DISCUSSION (25 Minutes)

Matthew 19:16–30 (NLT)

16 Someone came to Jesus with this question: "Teacher, what good things must I do to have eternal life?"

17 "Why ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "Only God is good. But to answer your question, you can receive eternal life if you keep the commandments." **18** "Which ones?" the man asked. And Jesus replied: "Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not testify falsely. **19** Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself." **20** "I've obeyed all these commandments," the young man replied. "What else must I do?" **21** Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." **22** But when the young man heard this, he went sadly away because he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to get into the Kingdom of Heaven. **24** I say it again – it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" **25** The disciples were astounded. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked. **26** Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible." **27** Then Peter said to him, "We've given up everything to follow you. What will we get out of it?" **28** And Jesus replied, "I assure you that when I, the Son of Man, sit upon my glorious throne in the Kingdom, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **29** And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will have eternal life. **30** But many who seem to be important now will be the least important then, and those who are considered least here will be the greatest then."

Intro

1. What is something you have that you know you could not live without?
2. What is one activity you do that defines you?
3. If you were given a choice between your answer for number one or number two which would you choose—the possession or the activity?

Bible

1. How would feel if you were the rich young man? Would you do what Jesus asked of you?
2. Why does he go away sad? The Scriptures never tell us his decision. Why do you think that is?
3. Who do you think is considered the least on earth?
4. There are around two billion people in the world that have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ. What is our responsibility to these two billion people?
5. Of these two billion people, a vast majority of them are underprivileged, malnourished, and in poverty. What can we do as a group in response to this dilemma?
6. Why is it important for people to hear the news of Jesus Christ?
7. Why does Jesus give a promise to those who give up possession or money or relationship to help spread the gospel message?

Application

1. How can you help Spread the Word both here in America and abroad?
2. What are you willing to give up?

Application Activity

Now ask your students write a **how** question relating to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, and then have the group answer with a **by** statement.

For example: How can two billion people hear the good news? By ministering one at a time.
How can I make a difference? By sharing the gospel with someone or by giving to help those overseas who are doing this daily.