







I Can Make Wise Decisions



Play the "What-if?" Game.

Use words of pictures to show what you would choose.

		
If I _____		
I Would...		
		

Suggestions for Parents or Leaders

The choices we make daily are based upon those things that we consider to be truly valuable. These values strongly influence our feelings and thoughts. They influence our decisions even though we may be unaware of it. Often people claim to value something very highly but their actions show that there is a difference between what they claim to value and what they actually value. One example would be the mother who tells her child that honesty is a priority but who keeps extra change accidentally given her by a grocery store clerk. A drastic example of this problem is provided by the Biblical Pharisees. They claimed to love God at the same time they were crucifying Him.

Examining the things we value is one of the first steps in wise decision-making. When faced with a decision, third-grade children can learn to say to themselves, "What is most important to me?" This activity enables children to practice decision-making based upon their decisions to commit their lives to Jesus.

What-If?

- ⇒ Some problems which the children might consider in the "What-If?" Game include:
 - What if you had \$50; how would you spend it?
 - What if you had only one week to live; what would you do with it?
 - What if you could choose only three people in all the world; which three would you choose as friends?

The children or leader may suggest other problems. The leader may read a story to the children, stopping at the point where the problem is introduced to discuss solutions.

- ⇒ Go over one of the problems listed above with the children, modeling how they can make a wise decision. Encourage them to ask:
 - What does the Bible say about this?
 - Is this just fun for now or will it help me live happily forever?
 - Is this really important to me?
- ⇒ Allow children to work as pairs or individuals on the problem of their choice. As they present their solution to the group, they should use the questions above to explain why they think their solution is a good one. Allow for group discussion of each solution. There is no one right answer.