

Date Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

# KIDS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

## Topic: Fun

### Purpose of this Session:

Many young people don't know how to have fun. They are growing up so fast they have forgotten how to play. If someone acts zany, crazy or uninhibited in a healthy way, they think he or she is stoned or drunk. They need to learn how to have fun creatively and safely. This TalkSheet will help you talk about having fun.

### To Introduce the Topic:

Have some fun! Involve the parents in this by having them bring a variety of fun food. Let the students bring their favorite Christian albums and videos. Have several lead the group in their favorite games.

### The Discussion:

**Item #1:** Make a master list of the things your group considers "fun". The list can include both positive and negative items. Keep the list visible on a chalkboard or newsprint to refer to, later.

Ask the students to share which ones they placed an "X" beside, indicating they have done those recently. In what ways were those activities fun? Which activities have they never done? Why not?

**Item #2:** Take these statements one at a time and ask for a show of hands on each one. Ask the reasons for each one. Find out why, or why not, Christians have fun or why they think their life is boring, or why they think God is against fun. Focus on the need for many young people to have constant excitement in their lives. Young people who are always living on the edge are headed for trouble. Partying has become a major sport for many. Wholesome fun is healthy. Misguided fun can be dangerous.

**Item #3:** Ask why they chose the person named on this item. What is it about the person that makes them think they would have more fun if they were that person? Could they ever become like that person?

**Item #4:** You might wish to divide the students into smaller groups to decide what each of these scriptures has to say about fun.

### To Close the Session:

The following are key points to emphasize:

(1) God does want us to have fun. God is not a "cosmic killjoy" — a corrective parent — sitting up in heaven with a frown on his face. He wants us to enjoy life at its fullest. He is the creator of life and therefore, He knows what is best for us and how we can get the most out of life. Read Phillipians 4:4. Paul encourages us to "rejoice".

(2) Help the students realize it is possible to "party" without getting into trouble. They will probably encounter many situations, especially as they grow older, when they will be confronted with making decisions about drugs and alcohol. Too many young people believe "fun" is synonymous with "getting wasted". Losing control of one's faculties is not fun. Risking irreversible brain damage is not "fun". Encourage your students to pursue wholesome fun activities without doing anything they will regret, later.

### Outside Activities:

Plan a fun activity with your junior high students that is really wild and different. Brainstorm ideas with them and your youth leaders, or check out some of the great ideas in the *Ideas* books, published by Youth Specialties, or *Creative Socials and Special Events* by Wayne Rice and Mike Yaconelli (Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 1986)