

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

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

## WHAT DO I DO ON SUNDAYS?

### Topic: The church.

### Purpose of this Session:

This TalkSheet was designed to create discussion about the church and to encourage young people to be involved in their church.

### To Introduce the Topic:

Ask the students how many Sundays they have gone to church so far. Let them try to figure it out and award a prize to the person who comes up with the highest number. Have them estimate how many Sundays they will attend church in their entire lifetime.

Share your own earliest recollections of going to church, or read a few selections from the book *101 Things to Do During a Dull Sermon* by Dan Pegoda and Tim Sims (Youth Specialties), or give the students a brief "tour" of the sanctuary (if you are meeting in the church). Use your own creativity as you try to get them to think about the church.

### The Discussion:

**Item #1:** Encourage the students to share the activities they chose to replace church. Talk about the importance or unimportance of each in relation to church attendance. In all probability, many of your junior high students attend church because they are forced to. Ask them, "If you were not forced to go to church, do you think you would still go?"

**Item #2:** Have the students read all the reasons people should go to church and list them on the blackboard. Have them choose the one they think is the most important. Point out there are many good reasons to attend church.

**Item #3:** Ask the students to vote on each of these statements according to their answer on the TalkSheet. If everyone is in accord on a particular one, go to the next. If there is a lot of disagreement, let them defend their points of view. Allow them the freedom to express their opinions without your being judgmental. Share your point of view in the conclusion. You might wish to focus on the last statement, because many junior high students feel unnecessary and unimportant to the church. Suggest ways for them to become more involved.

**Item #4:** Have the students share their answers. Look up the verses and find out if they are correct.

### To Close the Session:

As you close this session, you might wish to emphasize the following, as well as other points of your choice:

1. The church is not a building or a service we attend. It is the people of God. When we become a Christian, we become part of the church, the body of Christ.
2. The purpose of the church is not to entertain us nor to provide fun activities. We come to church to learn about God, to grow in faith, and to worship Him. This requires some effort and the desire to do these things.
3. Young people are not the "church of tomorrow". They are an important part of the church of today. Encourage them to get involved in the life of the church. Brainstorm ways they can become more involved.

### Outside Activities:

1. Give your group a quiz about the church requiring them to get the answers from other members of the congregation. Sample questions:

- a. Name a missionary sponsored by our church, and the country where he or she serves.
- b. What is our pastor's middle name?
- c. What is the name of our church's newsletter?
- d. What year was our church founded?