

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

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

# **BEING A KID IN A GROWN-UP'S WORLD**

## **Topic: Childhood**

### **Purpose of this Session:**

Being a kid can be frustrating, especially in a world designed for adults. Young people need the opportunity to share what it is like for them in a grown-up's world. Too often, kidhood is seen as prep time for adulthood, and young people are rushed through childhood. But it is okay to be a kid! This TalkSheet structures a discussion that supports kids in being kids.

### **To Introduce the Topic:**

A good lead-in to the discussion is to ask the kids to share their parents' when-I-was-your-age stories. The young people will have an enjoyable time sharing "adult" stories about growing up. Tell the group that you will be discussing being a kid in a world of adults.

### **The Discussion:**

**Item #1:** First, kids will mention things they do not have to do, such as pay bills, go to work, or do laundry. Then they will identify things they cannot do, such as drive, watch certain movies, or go to bed anytime they wish. Kids may mention some painful situations, like dealing with divorce. Keep the group a safe place where kids can share their difficult situations.

**Item #2:** The statement "Grown-ups are more important than kids" helps young people articulate their feelings of insignificance in an adult world. The statement "Kids can do things that grown-ups cannot" focuses on why kids are as important as adults. Explore how God can work through kids. Many kids have not considered what they can do for God.

Students typically agree with the statement "Grown-ups do not understand kids." As an adult, listen to why kids agree with this. Kids feel that adults today do not understand what is happening in their world. They feel grown-ups do not take the time to listen to them. You probably felt the same way when you were their age.

The statement "Kids can do things that grown-ups cannot" provides the opportunity to examine kidhood in general. Too often, adults view kids as adults in training. Kids have to do this and learn that to become adults. Preparing for adulthood is only one of the tasks of childhood.

Young people can have a kid relationship with God, great friendships, and even ministries. By getting good at being kids, young people are preparing for adulthood.

The statement "Grown-ups decide too many things for kids" will be met with enthusiastic agreement. Explore with your students the things that are under their control and the things that adults control. Then discuss how they can make better decisions regarding the things under their control.

**Item #3:** Remember that list you created in your head of all the things you said you would never do to kids when you became an adult? Think back on it so you can be empathetic with the kids as they share those things that parents and other adults say and do that they do not like. Encourage the kids to ask their parents if there was anything they said they would not do to kids when they grew up.

**Item #4:** Interestingly, many kids believe they will handle adulthood better than they have kidhood. They feel that once they are out on their own, they will make better decisions. Explore with the kids how getting good at being a kid will help them in adulthood. If they can make good decisions now, they will make good decisions as grown-ups.

**Item #5:** Create a list of roles adults play in the lives of kids: protector, guide, teacher, listener, comforter, and so on. Point out that adults make mistakes just like kids do.

**Item #6:** Each of the Scriptures speaks of a ministry young people had in Bible times. Read the passages, then discuss ministry opportunities kids can involve themselves in today.

### **To Close the Session:**

Review what has been discussed. Use this time to let the adults in the group encourage and build up your kids. Adults can share how well they feel the kids are doing at being kids.