



Media and Materialism

DID YOU KNOW THAT HALF OF THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD GO TO BED HUNGRY EVERY NIGHT?

ALMOST?
AS IN...

WOW! THAT'S ALMOST ENOUGH TO MAKE ME THINK TWICE ABOUT WASTING SO MUCH MONEY ON VIDEO GAMES AND CDs.



AS IN NOT QUITE...



SHARE

your highs and lows

Break into pairs.
Listen carefully and record your partner's thoughts in the space provided. Then return to small group and share your friend's highs and lows.

MY HIGH THIS WEEK

MY LOW THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S HIGH THIS WEEK

MY FRIEND'S LOW THIS WEEK



READ

and highlight the theme verse in your Bible

"Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live."

Isaiah 55:1-3a



TALK

about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

Choose from the options below to enrich your Talk Time. Invite group members to take turns leading one or more of the following:

IMAGES

1. Choose either the cover photo, cartoon or painting by Dr. He Qi (back page).
2. Where are you in this work of art?
3. How might the art and the theme verse relate to each other?
4. How might the art relate to your highs and lows?

ROLE PLAY

Assign roles and take turns acting out the following:

1. A friend tells you "Greed is good!" How do you respond?
2. A neighbor often brags about all the expensive toys she owns but won't donate to you when you come collecting for the local food shelf. Respond.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. What are five current television ads with bad messages? What are five current ads with good messages? What makes a good one good?
2. Think about the five bad television commercials. What are they selling? No. Really. What are they selling?
3. Who are the happiest people you know? Why are they happy? How can someone with little material wealth be happy? How can one have a full house but an empty home? A full schedule but an empty life?

QUOTATIONS

Choose a quotation (right column) and share your thoughts and questions about it.

If only God would give me some clear sign! Like making a large deposit in my name at a Swiss bank.

Woody Allen

Whoever dies with the most toys, wins.

Bumper Sticker

There is no calamity greater than lavish desires.

There is no greater guilt than discontentment.

And there is no greater disaster than greed.

Lao-tzu

The only thing he doesn't have is more.

Rich Melheim

Wisdom outweighs any wealth.

Sophocles



Write a definition...

MATERIALISM

MEDIA

EXCESS

POVERTY

RICHES



Mary and Martha by Dr. He Qi (www.heqigallery.com)



PRAY
for one another's
highs and lows

Gather in a circle. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Pray for your friend's highs and lows and for your world. Close in Jesus' name.

Prayers for Highs

Prayers for Lows



BLESS
one another

Trace the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads or palms.

**REMEMBER
1 THING**

We live in a world of extremes. Some have everything they want, but still feel empty. Sometimes the more we have, the less we have. Sometimes the only thing we don't have is more.



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