



DAILY DILEMMAS

eight sessions on teenage choices

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Lunchtime Group
Resources

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

eight sessions on greed, sex, alcohol, self-esteem and more



The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.

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WELCOME

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- **7** sets of leader's notes for regular meetings. The leader's notes provide the aim of the study, a fun activity, discussion questions (with notes to help answer some questions) and prayer ideas.
- **7** student pages for regular meetings. The student pages can be photocopied and handed out if so desired. Each sheet contains the Bible passages (NIV), questions and prayer ideas.
- **1** set of leader's notes for an outreach meeting.
- **2** colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name and where you meet. We encourage schools to use the Crusader logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

BEFORE YOU START

- Please note that although all pages in this resource can be photocopied, Crusaders request each school purchase at least one original.
- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital that time is spent adapting it to the specific needs of your group. Time also needs to be spent on working through the Bible passages and questions before the group meets. Answers have not been provided for all questions.
- It would be very easy to spend too much time on the activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting and divide time accordingly.
- **Note that the outreach meeting (Week 6) needs a bit more planning than other meetings. It may be wise to look ahead now at what needs doing.**

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God's work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

*"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.
To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me."
Colossians 1:28–29*

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Week	Title	Passage	Main Idea
1	A Beautiful Mind	Philippians 4:8	Pure minds The things we soak into our minds will influence the way we live.
2	Red Faces	Ephesians 4:26–27, 31–32	Anger God’s people are to be different. They are to put off anger and put on forgiveness.
3	Sticks And Stones	Ephesians 4:29, 5:3–4	Speech God’s people are to put off impure speech and put on speech which builds others up.
4	A Rich Man’s World	1 Timothy 6:6–10	Greed With the wealth God gives us comes a responsibility to care for the poor.
5	Fight 4 Your Rights?	Romans 13:1–2	Submission God’s people are to submit to those in authority over them.
6	Outreach Week	Psalms 139	Self-esteem An opportunity to bring friends so that they hear the gospel and experience the group.
7	No Laughing Matter	1 Corinthians 10:23–24, 31–32a	Alcohol God’s people are to be characterised by self-control if they decide to drink alcohol.
8	The Sex Factor	1 Corinthians 6:18	Sex God’s people are to treat sex as a valuable gift designed for enjoyment within marriage.

A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Philippians 4:8

AIM

To urge students to soak into their minds only those things that will help them live for Christ.

PREPARATION

- ❑ Photocopy the 'Week 1 Students' page (page 20) for everyone. You will need to use the student page for this meeting even if you do not use it normally.
- ❑ Learn the 'Rescue Recall' (page 21) yourself. This is the memory verse for the term and is the CEV version of Ephesians 4:22–24.
- ❑ Photocopy and laminate or contact enough 'Rescue Recall' cards for everyone. Do extras for students that will come in the following weeks.
- ❑ Bring one dry sponge, a bucket of clean water and a bucket of filthy water.
- ❑ Optional - bring individual Bible reading material to recommend to students for home use.

PREDICAMENT

This activity is designed to get students thinking about making real life choices.¹ Be sure to allow at least half of your total meeting time for discussion afterwards.

Briefly introduce one of the following predicaments to students:

- you get to a friend's place to discover that the video everyone has decided to watch is full of stuff that will be unhelpful for your mind as a Christian. What do you do?

OR

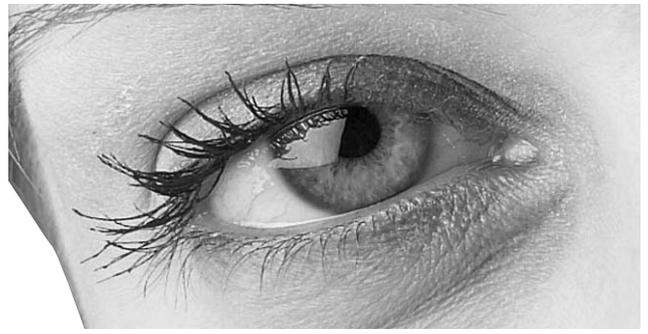
- you are in a car with some friends when a filthy song comes on the radio. The driver turns it up and everyone starts singing along. What do you do?

Get a few people up the front to quickly act out the predicament in whatever way they wish (they are not to provide a resolution to the predicament however). It doesn't matter how many people are acting – sometimes the more the merrier! Skip this part if short on time.

Then break everyone into small groups and ensure that each has a copy of the 'Week 1 Students' page. Give groups 5 minutes to read the passages together and decide how they would deal with the predicament. Encourage them to think about all the factors involved and what action would most please God.

If you have time, ask one group to act out their resolution to the predicament.

1. The idea for Predicament came from *The Youth Worker's Guide to Creative Bible Study* by Karen Dockrey, Victor Books, 1991.



DISCUSSION

1 What resolution to the predicament did you decide upon and why?

Note: Allow for disagreement among students on the right course of action to such a tricky situation. Issues that are likely to arise include how Christians should attempt to be in the world but not of it and whether or not our actions are influenced by what we listen to/watch.

2 Hand out the 'Rescue Recall' cards.

Based on Ephesians 4:22-24, what is the relationship between our minds and the way we act?

Note: Paul often points out that it is our depraved minds that lead us to sin and that our minds need renewing if we are to live for God. By soaking the sponge with the two types of water, demonstrate the relationship between the things we soak in to our minds and the things that come out of our minds. Soaking in clean things means clean things will come out. Soaking in dirty things means dirty things will come out. Make sure you do the clean water first or it will be tainted by the dirty! Remind students that they are not alone in seeking to be pure – God has given Christians the Holy Spirit to change their way of thinking and help them choose what is right.

Emphasise the importance of soaking God's word into our minds to keep them pure. Explain that this is the purpose of learning the 'Rescue Recall' this term.

Note: This is a perfect opportunity to encourage students to read the Bible at home. You may like to take down the names of those students interested in getting some individual Bible reading material to help them. Please contact Crusaders if you would like suggestions for material.

PRAYER IDEA

In groups, get students to discuss where they are most often tempted to watch or listen to unhelpful things. Encourage them to set one goal of what to do next time they are in that situation so as to act like Christ's new person. Get them to pray for one another, thanking God for the Holy Spirit who works in us to renew our minds and help us fight sin.

FINISH

Encourage students to soak their minds in God's word this week. A great way to start would be to keep the 'Rescue Recall' in their wallet and learn it.