SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Program Target: To help youth think seriously about issues around substance abuse and other crises teenagers face.

What to do: Obtain and show a copy of the video *Real Kids: Survivors* and show to your group. Depending on the time you have available, you could show the entire video, or only the sections dealing with addictions. (The video contains interviews with five young people who have survived experiences of addiction, violence, and loss). After viewing, use the discussion guide materials provided with the video to lead your group in a discussion.

Preparation Time: Obtain a copy of the video (see Resources). Preview beforehand to determine whether you want to show the whole video and if not, what parts you want to show.

Resources: *Real Kids: Survivors* is available from Youth Specialties ministries (www.youthspecialties.com) for $10.99 US.

Vesper or Closing Thought: Choosing to use alcohol, drugs, or other addictive substances (or activities!) can have a devastating effect on your life. God can work in a person's life to help him or her become a "survivor" no matter what's happened. But the best choice of all is to stay clean and don't get drawn in to the trap of addiction.