READING

Program Target: To help young people think more carefully about what they read and how it affects them.

What to do: Ahead of time, ask each person in your group to bring a favorite book to the meeting (those who protest that they never read books may bring a magazine they like). When everyone arrives with their book, divide people into groups according to the type of books they have brought, e.g. Inspirational, Adventure, Mystery, Romance, Sports, etc. Set up several stations around the room and have each group display their books. Allow about 30 minutes for people to circulate around the room, a few at a time so that each table always has someone still at it. Give them an opportunity to look at each other's book choices and display their books for each other, telling a little about what kind of books they like, etc.

After the "book fair" is over, invite everyone back together for discussion. What did they learn about each other's taste in books? Was anyone embarrassed about having to share the books they liked with others? If so, why? Did anyone's choices surprise the others? Why?

Preparation Time: Tell your youth at least a week ahead of time about the requirement to bring a book to the meeting. Call them a day or two before the meeting to remind them. Bring a few of your own books to talk about too.

Bible Text: Philippians 4:8

Vesper or Closing Thought:
Read Philippians 4:8 and discuss how our choices for reading stack up against those standards. Discuss: is it possible to subject everything we read to those standards? How would it change our reading habits if we did?