FOLLOWING JESUS

Program Target: To encourage youth to apply Jesus' standards and values to their everyday lives.

What to do:

Have several small groups of youth act out the following scenes from Jesus' life:

- John 4: Jesus talks to the woman at the well.
- Matthew 8: Jesus heals two men possessed with demons.
- John 8: Jesus forgives the woman caught in adultery.
- Matthew 21: Jesus throws the money-changers out of the Temple.
- John 13: Jesus washes the disciples' feet.

After each scene (about 5 minutes), ask the youth (as a whole group, or in smaller groups) to reflect: what principles is Jesus' action teaching in this story? How could I apply them in my life today? What's a situation a Christian young person today might face where we could apply those same pricniples? Allow for about 10-15 minutes of discussion after each scene is presented.

Preparation Time:

There are two ways to prepare for this activity.

OPTION A: If you have time to prepare and some gifted actors in your group, assign your actors about two weeks ahead of time to prepare short skits based on these Bible stories. If you're not able to work closely with them yourself, check in with them several times leading up to the meeting to make sure they'll have something prepared.

OPTION B: You can still do this activity even with no preparation time. When the meeting starts, divide your group into smaller groups and assign each group one of the Bible stories. Assign them to prepare a short skit to present to the others, and then continue with discussion as outlined. Since this option requires time during the program to plan and prepare the skits, you'll need to either do fewer scenes, or allow a shorter time for discussion after each scene.

Bible Text:

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." (1 Peter 2:21, NIV)

Song Service:

"Follow Jesus"

Vesper or Closing Thought:

"What Would Jesus Do?" is a popular slogan in youth ministry today. But in order to avoid

creating Jesus in our own image, the only way to be sure what Jesus *would* do, is to examine closely what Jesus *did* do. Get to know the stories of Jesus as presented