CAREER CHOICES

Program Target: To help youth think through career choices in the light of their commitment to serve God.

What to do: Set up a "career fair" during your AY meeting (if you have a small meeting area, borrow a school gym or other large meeting hall). Invite 10-15 adult church members working in different careers to come to your meeting and set up tables with information about their career area, visual aids, anything else that will help make their display interesting and attractive. Depending on the size of your group and the amount of time available, you may wish to allow each person to give a short presentation to the whole group first. Otherwise, just have youth circulate around the booth individually or in groups, and ask the guests to talk to those who visit their table about their career area, why they find it rewarding, how they got started in it (e.g. what kind of education is necessary, etc) and how they serve God while working in this career. Use your entire meeting time to allow youth to visit the different booths and talk to the guests, but bring everyone back together at the end of your meeting time for a brief devotional though (see below).

Preparation Time: Contact your guests at least a month ahead of time. Choose people who are enthusiastic about their careers and can communicate well with young people. If your church is too small for you to have a large pool of people from different careers to draw on, invite other guests from the community, but wherever possible, try to invite Christian guests as you will be encouraging them to talk about how they serve God in their career (*Note:* This may seem easier for those in traditional "service" or church-related professions, such as ministers, teachers, nurses and doctors, but encourage those in other occupations to also talk about their service to God and humanity–e.g. an engineer who designs and builds systems that keep people safer, a lawyer who makes sure people get their rights under the law, a janitor or cleaner who makes buildings pleasant and healthy to work in). If you know your youth group well and have a large enough pool of adults to draw on, try to match your guests somewhat to the needs of your group (e.g., do not invite all highly educated professionals if you have many youth in your group who struggle in school and may not get past a high school education).

Bible Text: Ecclesiastes 9:10

Vesper or Closing Thought: God has given each of us unique gifts, and He has a calling and a work for each of us to do in this world. As you think about your career choices, remember His calling. Remember that God values you for the special person you are, and if you ask Him to lead in your career choice, He will lead you into an area that is well fitted to your talents, where you can serve Him and share His love with others.