ORIGIN OF LIFE

Program Target: To help young people think about the implications of the fact that we were created by God.

What to do:

Divide your youth into two or more groups (groups can be fairly large–up to 8-10 people). Provide each group with a large plastic garbage bag full of supplies that could be used to create a sculpture (see "Resources" for suggestions). When groups first divide, instruct them *not* to open the bag or look at the materials they have been given. Rather, they are to think of as many ways as possible, while keeping the materials in the bag, to try to get them to combine randomly to make something (e.g. tossing the bag back and forth, dropping it off the roof or out a window, etc). After about 10-15 minutes of this, instruct groups to open their bags and allow them to take out the materials. Allow 20-30 minutes for groups to construct as polished, complete, and artistic a sculpture as they can with the materials given (if they want to use their own ingenuity and resources to add some extra things, they can do that too).

When the creative time is over, allow another 20-30 minutes to allow the groups to show off their creations and then discuss the questions below:

Discussion Questions:
1. What was the difference between trying to create the sculpture randomly, and actually building and designing it?
2. How does this relate to the question of how we were created?
3. What does it mean to us to know we were created in the image of God, an intelligent Designer?
4. In practical terms, would your life be any different if you knew you had evolved purely by chance?

Preparation Time:

The only preparation this program requires is for you to take the time to assemble the materials groups will need to make their sculpture.

Bible Text:

"From the very beginning the Word was with God. And with this Word, God created all things. Nothing was made without the Word. Everything that was created received its life from him, and his life gave light to everyone." (John 1:2-4, CEV).
Resources: What you choose to use for sculpture materials will depend on what's available to you and also on the size of your group. If you are going to have fairly small groups, you may want to use materials such as modelling clay or plasticine. If your groups will be larger, you'll need the materials to make a larger sculpture that everyone can participate in. You might want to make it a "recycled" sculpture using leftover materials such as paper, fabric scraps, straws, paper plates and cups, sticks, plastic knives and forks, etc. Be creative and use what's easily available

to you.