



Interfaith Food Pantry

Serving Morris County

Lifes Journey Game

This activity will demonstrate the effect of different circumstances on whether a person has enough money to make ends meet or not. The “chips” represent wealth, which is divided randomly between the participants and won or lost based on chance.

Time: 20 to 30 minutes

Age: Middle school to adult

Group Size: 10-50

Materials:

- “chips” (i.e. bingo chips, cheerios, dried beans)
- Zip lock sandwich bags (adjust number to size of group)
- Activity cards

Preparation:

1. Take plastic pages and fill them in the following manner (for 10 bags)
 - a. One bag with lots of “chips”
 - b. Seven bags with 5 “chips” (5 of which contain a family support card)
 - c. Two bags with 2 “chips”
2. Randomly assign the bags to the participants and leave a pile of “chips” in the center of the table. Place activity cards in a pile face down.

Procedure:

- Participants take turns picking a card from the pile, then reading the card aloud
- Based on the instructions, they either gain or lose their “chips” to the pile in the center
- The family support card can be used to cover 1 turn after a person runs out of “chips”
- When a player uses up all his/her “chips” and family support cards, they are out of the game
- After about 10-15 minutes, ask participants to stop playing and discuss the results of the game.

Below are the activity cards –
you will need to cut each one out individually

FAMILY SUPPORT CARD

YOUR FAMILY IS ABLE TO PAY YOUR COLLEGE EXPENSES SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK. GAIN 1

THE WOMAN NEXT DOOR THAT TOOK CARE OF YOUR CHILDREN DURING THE EVENING SHIFT WHEN YOU WORK JUST MOVED AWAY. THERE IS NO ONE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR CHILDREN WHILE YOU WORK. LOSE 1

CHILD CARE COSTS HALF OF WHAT YOU EARN, BUT IF YOU DON'T WORK YOU CAN'T PAY THE RENT. LOSE 1

FAMILY SUPPORT CARD

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YOUR HOURS AND DAYS HAVE BEEN CUT AND YOU'RE NOT PAID FOR OVERTIME. WORKERS WHO HAVE COMPLAINED WERE FIRED. LOSE 1

YOUR DAUGHTER HAD APPENDICITIS. SHE'S OKAY, BUT THE HOSPITAL BILLS ARE \$5600 AND THE COLLECTIONS OFFICE HAS STARTED CALLING YOU. LOSE 1

YOUR GREAT-GREAT GRANDMOTHER JUST PASSED AWAY AND LEFT YOU \$15,000 IN HER WILL. GAIN 2

YOU'VE RECEIVED FOOD STAMPS AND ARE ABLE TO BUY FRESH PRODUCE. GAIN 1

YOU MOVE TO AN APARTMENT THAT COSTS LESS BUT AT THE SAME TIME YOU NOW DEPEND ON YOUR CAR TO GET TO WORK AND YOU NEED NEW BREAKS AFTER HAVING JUST PAID YOUR RENT/SECURITY DEPOSIT. YOU HAVE TO TAKE OUT A HIGH INTEREST LOAN FROM THE BANK. LOSE 2

YOUR CAR BREAKS DOWN AGAIN, THIS TIME FOR GOOD. YOU CAN'T GET TO YOUR JOB BY BUS. LOSE 1

FAMILY SUPPORT CARD

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you will need to cut each one out individually

YOU FINISH THE CERTIFIED NURSING
ASSISTANT PROGRAM AT THE COUNTY
COLLEGE AND ARE ABLE TO GET A
BETTER JOB. GAIN 1

YOU HAD A CHANCE OF A GREAT JOB,
BUT IT REQUIRES THE USE OF A CAR
AND YOU CAN'T AFFORD A CAR. LOSE 1

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T AFFORD
CHILDCARE, YOU CAN ONLY GET A JOB
WHEN YOUR CHILDREN ARE IN SCHOOL.
LOSE 1

YOU CANT PAY THE RENT BECAUSE YOU
WERE SICK AND MISSED THREE DAYS OF
WORK THE WEEK BEFORE THE RENT
WAS DUE. YOUR LANDLORD CHARGES
\$50 FOR LATE RENT PAYMENTS. LOSE 1

FAMILY SUPPORT CARD

YOU LOST YOUR JOB, BUT YOUR
SPOUSE/PARTNER IS STILL WORKING
AND CAN SUPPORT YOU. GAIN 1

YOU DIDN'T HAVE GOOD DENTAL CARE
AS A CHILD AND NOW YOU HAVE
EXTREME PAIN AND DAMAGE. A TRIP
TO THE DENTIST MEANS A FULL DAY OF
LOST PAY. LOSE 1

YOU GRADUATED, BUT YOU HAVE
\$30,000 IN STUDENT LOANS TO PAY.
GAIN 1 AND LOSE 1

YOUR COMPUTER JOB MOVED TO
INDIA. YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND
WORK AND YOU'RE GETTING EVICTED.
LOSE 1

YOU GRADUATE AND YOU GET A JOB IN
YOUR MAJOR. LIFE LOOKS GREAT.
GAIN 2

FAMILY SUPPORT CARD

YOUR UNCLE OWNS A BUSINESS AND
SETS YOU UP WITH A GREAT JOB. GAIN 1

YOU JUST FOUND OUT YOU NEED
SURGERY AND YOU DON'T HAVE
HEALTH INSURANCE. LOSE 1