



# 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	FAMILY SUPPORT CARD
YOUR FAMILY IS ABLE TO PAY YOUR COLLEGE EXPENSES SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK. GAIN 1	FAMILY SUPPORT CARD
FAMILY SUPPORT CARD	YOUR HOURS AND DAYS HAVE BEEN CUT AND YOU'RE NOT PAID FOR OVERTIME. WORKERS WHO HAVE COMPLAINED WERE FIRED. LOSE 1
YOUR FAMILY IS ABLE TO PAY YOUR COLLEGE EXPENSES SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK. GAIN 1	YOUR DAUGHTER HAD APPENDICITIES. SHE'S OKAY, BUT THE HOSPITAL BILLS ARE \$5600 AND THE COLLECTIONS OFFICE HAS STARTED CALLING YOU. LOSE 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	YOUR GREAT-GREAT GRANDMOTHER JUST PASSED AWAY AND LEFT YOU \$15,000 IN HER WILL. GAIN 2
CHILD CARE COSTS HALF OF WHAT YOU EARN, BUT IF YOU DON'T WORK YOU CAN'T PAY THE RENT. LOSE 1	YOU'VE RECEIVED FOOD STAMPS AND ARE ABLE TO BUY FRESH PRODUCE. GAIN 1

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<p>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</p>	<p>YOU CAN'T 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</p>
<p>YOUR CAR BREAKS DOWN AGAIN, THIS TIME FOR GOOD. YOU CAN'T GET TO YOUR JOB BY BUS. LOSE 1</p>	<p>FAMILY SUPPORT CARD</p>
<p>FAMILY SUPPORT CARD</p>	<p>YOU LOST YOUR JOB, BUT YOUR SPOUSE/PARTNER IS STILL WORKING AND CAN SUPPORT YOU. GAIN 1</p>
<p>YOU FINISH THE CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT PROGRAM AT THE COUNTY COLLEGE AND ARE ABLE TO GET A BETTER JOB. GAIN 1</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>YOU GRADUATED, BUT YOU HAVE \$30,000 IN STUDENT LOANS TO PAY. GAIN 1 AND LOSE 1</p>
<p>BECAUSE YOU CAN'T AFFORD CHILDCARE, YOU CAN ONLY GET A JOB WHEN YOUR CHILDREN ARE IN SCHOOL. LOSE 1</p>	<p>YOUR COMPUTER JOB MOVED TO INDIA. YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WORK AND YOU'RE GETTING EVICTED. LOSE 1</p>

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

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