



# Fast Cars and Other Risky Business

## OBJECTIVE

To help groups understand that God has given us life as a precious gift and that we shouldn't put that gift at risk.

## FOCUS THIS WEEK

People with life-threatening diseases sometimes spend everything they have to get healthy again. They know life and health is worth more than possessions. Some people who have lost a loved one would give everything they have for one more day, one more hour with the person they loved and lost. They know how precious life is. It's a gift. It's all good. It's all from God.

## FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



**SHARE** highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



**READ** and highlight the theme verse, Romans 12:1-2, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at [www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com), FINKlink HT03.



**TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

### A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

### B. ROLE PLAY

Invite youth to act out these two situations. Switch roles after a couple of minutes and involve others.

1. A friend's parent is driving like an idiot and risking the lives of everyone in your car pool. You want to be respectful, but you don't want anyone to get hurt. How do you approach this person?
2. Write five types of risky behaviors that people your age regularly engage in on five separate sheets of paper. Fold the papers and choose one. Act out an intervention. One person is involved in the risky behavior. Two try to stop them.

## C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

**1. What is the best gift you ever were given? How did you thank the giver? How did you treat the gift? How does this relate to God?** Affirm all thoughtful responses. To encourage discussion, talk about a gift you received that was important to you. What made the gift special? (It was designed for you, it was given with love, it was given with no strings attached.)

**2. What are the five riskiest things kids your age do on a regular basis? Why do they do them?** Affirm all appropriate responses. Let this question sink in—it's tough and personal. If your group needs a kickstart, talk about alcohol, drugs, unprotected sex, etc. Often people exhibit reckless behavior because of low self-esteem, to fill a void, or because the behavior was socialized as they grew up.

**3. Search Institute reports 47% of teens who get drunk every weekend don't like what they drink. Why would they do something they don't like? Is this a form of self-abuse? Why or why not?** Affirm all appropriate responses. Again, people exhibit reckless behavior because of low self-esteem, to fill a void or because the behavior was socialized as they grew up. The affirmation of taking part in something that's harmful or even tastes bad is greater than the physical aversion.

**D. QUOTATIONS** Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

**E. TERMS OF THE WEEK** Review these key terms and write definitions.

**Sacrifice:** Willingly giving up something of value.

**Conform:** Acting, believing like everyone else around you.

**Transform:** To change the nature of something.

**Will:** Your choice of action. Also, a plan for our lives (God's will).

**Risk:** Actions, thoughts, etc. that put a person in danger.

## F. GROUP BUSINESS

**1. Servant Event Idea:** Challenge different groups to take a service risk this week. The group that takes the biggest (healthy) risk on behalf of someone else, will be highlighted on Sunday morning and receive a fun group gift (a donation in their name to an organization of their choice).

**2. FAITH5 Home Huddle:** Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

**G. WRAP UP** Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



**PRAY** for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



**BLESS** one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!

