

Short-term Worker Small Group Discussion Guide

How would you respond to the following scenarios?

A couple hosting your church group in Panama has asked you to babysit their two small children (ages 9 and 2) while the couple goes out on their “date night.” You’ve fed both children and put the younger one to bed. The older one is watching a movie; during one of the movie scenes, the adult actors in bed embrace and kiss. The older child doesn’t react negatively at all.

You are a well-known public speaker who’s been invited to a children’s camp in London. Your presentations have gone smoothly and, after a fun day of exploring the countryside, you’ve become popular with the children and the adult camp counselors. Close to the end of your stay, you walk barefooted down the hallway of the lodge reserved for adults and see a child and a young adult counselor locked in an embrace.

Your best friend, David, is based in Africa where your group is working on a well-digging project. On your free day, you visit him. He seems proud of his teenage son’s accomplishments in photography. You express interest in seeing more of his work. The phone rings and David has to take the call, but he encourages you to visit the studio just outside the house he shares with his son Ryan. Once inside, you look around. You, too, are impressed with Ryan’s talent. But then you notice at least 10 photos on the wall of nude African children. A nude photo of a child holding hands with an African child lies flat on Ryan’s desk. The child is the daughter of a field-based couple. “These kids must be really good models of yours,” you ask casually. “They’re my cover children; they are the definition of innocence,” replies Ryan, before telling you how much he wants to major in photography where his father teaches art.

CHECK your answers. See Suggested Responses to Short-term Worker Discussion Guide.