

# TAXITIS



## Let's play doctor!

**Time:** 45 minutes to 1 hour

**Preparation:** Make sure that there are enough "Patient Lists", (Appendix, page 119), for everyone, plus a few extras.

Break the large group into smaller groups of 8 to 10 people. (If you divide the number of people you have by 9, e.g., 66 people divided by 9 = 7 with 3 left over, then you can go around the room and "number" the people 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,1,2,3,4, 5,6,7, etc. Then by having all the 1's form a group and then the 2's form another group, etc. you will end up with 4 groups of 9 and 3 groups of 10 people. This will usually split up any pairs of people who know each other!)

### **Participant Instructions:**

Hand out the "Patient List" to everyone (Appendix, page 119) and tell them the following story: "You are all doctors at a hospital that has a very rare serum that cures people who have a very rare disease called Taxitis that is killing many people today. This serum takes years to develop and you have managed to collect the entire world's supply - enough for 6 people. Unfortunately, 10 patients have recently been stricken by the disease. You must decide which of the 10 will receive the serum and live. The other 4 will likely die before more serum can be developed."

Tell the groups that they will have about 30 minutes to decide as a group which 6 will be selected. They should be asked to try not to select people just by voting. Studies show that the best selections are made when people discuss the reasons behind their choices. (Changing people's minds is better than "out-voting" them!)

Call out "15 minutes to go, 10 minutes, 3 minutes and 1 minute." (You don't have to give them the full 30 minutes for this portion. Just listen and watch the groups. When you see them start to finish off, then start giving them time warnings so that the rest of the groups start finishing as well.)

When you have finished this portion, have each group present their choices (and reasons) to the other groups. (You could talk about the similarities and differences in the groups after they have all made their presentations if you like.)

## **Taxitis Patients List** (from Page 57)

- 1) A popular 23 year-old musician who has done several charity concerts in his community for the homeless and has traveled on a peace tour throughout the world.
- 2) A young doctor who has been doing extensive research on cancer since he graduated from medical school.
- 3) A 55 year-old contractor who built several shopping malls in your community and whose company employs 300 to 500 people at any given time.
- 4) A drama teacher in one of the local high schools whose efforts have inspired several young people to go on to successful careers in the arts.
- 5) A Member of Parliament from this area who has been outspoken in the war against pollution and poverty.
- 6) An ex-convict who works in one of your local gas stations. He is a sole supporter for his invalid mother.
- 7) A mother of 3 children who has been active in the P.T.A., the United Appeal and other volunteer organizations.
- 8) A local clergyman who has dedicated his life to his community. He visits your hospital regularly and spends a lot of his time counseling young people involved in drugs.
- 9) A pretty 15 year-old girl who is one of the most popular in her class. She has always had good grades and stars in basketball and track and field.
- 10) A starting player on a pro basketball team. He helps teach underprivileged children athletic activities as a volunteer and appears at many fund-raising programs in your area.

