

Leadership Lesson

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IT'S YOUR CHOICE: This lesson is useful in helping groups discover how we make choices and the impact they have on our lives. It may be helpful to point out that our happiness, attitude, integrity, work ethic, responsibility, success, dedication, commitment, and so forth are all results of our choices.

INSTRUCTIONS: Explain that you will shuffle the deck of cards and then cut it, turning up either a red or black card. Have participants predict which color it will be, standing on one side of the room if they believe that it will be red and the other side of the room if they believe it will be black. Cut the deck and show the card to the group. Those who chose the opposite color of the card selected are asked to sit down while those who selected the color drawn are asked to choose again. Continue having them choose red or black for successive cuts of the deck until there is a single winner.

PROCESSING QUESTIONS: You may choose to ask questions like:

- How did you decide where to stand for the first card?
- Are there times in life that we have to make decisions based on our best guess? Give examples.
- Did you base your choice on intuition? Was your intuition correct? Can you normally trust your intuition?
- What role, if any, does intuition play in decisions you make each day?
- Did friends or people you trust, respect, or consider lucky influence your selection?
- Are decisions based on what others do, say, or think always best for us? Why? Why not?
- How did the laws of probability enter into your choice(s) of red or black during the activity? Give examples of decisions you make based on information that leads you to predict a certain outcome?
- Did luck play a factor in this activity? If so, how? Is there a correlation between opportunity and luck?
- What else did you learn from this activity?