

KID SPIRIT

Group Guides



KID SPIRIT
a quarterly magazine
Building Lives • One Issue Together

Spirit & Materialism

Vol. 1, No. 1

In this issue, we looked at the apparent conflict between our materialistic culture and our deepest values. Featuring a Kids' Guide to Advertising, a teen diary about boredom, and articles about food miles and happiness. Below are questions that can help focus a discussion.

1. Our Big Question asks whether it is possible to live a spiritual life in a materialistic culture. What do you think about this? Are these things truly at odds?
2. Lama Surya Das, the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual teacher, looks at the Buddhist attitude about external and internal riches. What did you think about the attitude of the dishonest man and that of the spiritual master? In the Buddhist tradition, how do you access spiritual riches? What do other spiritual traditions say about inner versus outer wealth?
3. Think about how many ads you see every day. How often are you aware of the messages coming at you through the media? Discuss ways in which the media plays a positive and negative role in advertising. How do you feel about ads?
4. One article focuses on the role of appearance in our society. Do you feel pressure to look a certain way or present an image to the world? How do you handle peer pressure in relationship to conforming to a group?

To order a copy of Spirit & Materialism, to read more work by teens, and to download any of KidSpirit's group guides, go to www.kidspiritonline.com. Parents and youth leaders with more questions about how to get their teens involved in writing for KidSpirit Magazine can send an e-mail to info@kidspiritonline.com.