



# Are These Our Neighbours?

## People Who Gamble

*“You shall have no gods except me.” Deuteronomy 5:7*

*“And they cast lots to divide his clothing.” Luke 23.24*

### Reasons for Gambling.

- Gambling in moderation is an enjoyable form of entertainment.
- Many charitable organizations receive money from gambling operations such as bingos and lotteries.
- SIGA (Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority) casinos create many jobs in Saskatchewan, especially for First Nations people.
- Source of income for governments: 1999 Canada’s \$7.5 billion: Alberta \$1 billion, Saskatchewan \$600 million.

#### **Definition:**

Gambling is the playing of games of chance for money or some other stake.

### Problems of Gambling

- Seen by many as an immoral activity at any level of participation.
- About 5 - 10% of gamblers become addicted.
- Addiction distracts people’s minds from God, who should be their main focus. This goes against the First Commandment by creating a false god out of money/addiction.
- Problem gambling results in bankruptcy, family break-ups, ill health, violence, crime and suicide.
- Addicted gamblers who are parents set bad examples for their children.

### Reference Sources

- (Since much of this topic is of recent development – we need to refer to print media and to web sites, e.g. Catholic weekly *Prairie Messenger*, Muenster; national dailies and statistical reports.
- Catholic weekly *Prairie Messenger*, Feb. 3, 1999
- SIGA website – [www.siga.sk.ca](http://www.siga.sk.ca)
- Wannabet magazine website – [www.wannabet.org](http://www.wannabet.org). This magazine deals with preventing children from developing gambling addictions.
- Gambling and Governments in Canada 1969-1998 Canadian Tax Foundation



- Update on Gambling Statistics Canada.



*“After the gambler has exhausted all the money and resources, then he or she leaves the family in dire straits.”*

*Ray Bye*

*“Spending on gambling tended to increase with age, but fell as education and incomes rose.”*

*David Perry*

### **Speaker Resource**

- Gamblers who have overcome their addictions. (Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling)
- Employees of the Saskatchewan Government Ministry of Liquor and Gaming.
- Problem Gambling Counselor for Health Districts. (Saskatoon Addiction Services (306) 655-4013)
- Employees of SIGA – operated casinos throughout Saskatchewan. There are casinos in Yorkton, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Carlyle and Regina.

### **Discussion Questions**

- Since many poor gamble using money they can ill afford, is this not a form of taxation?
- What defense can be used by those who run church bingos?
- What responsibilities do casino/bingo operations have to help in the rehabilitation of problem gamblers they helped to create?
- What alternatives are there for church groups who need to raise similar volumes of money?
- Do the benefits of legalized gambling outweigh the social and personal costs?
- How can we prevent addiction while allowing non addicts to enjoy gambling.

### **Possible Actions**

Invite addiction counselors to speak to the group.

Invite addicts to speak.

Invite casino/bingo operators to speak.

Invite government representatives to speak.

Pray—discuss/seek workable solutions.

