

# TOUGH CHOICES



## *What will you buy?*

Imagine you are the only income earner in your family and you live with your mum (who cannot work), brother Jack, and sister Lucy. Every week you get \$754 in wages. You were lucky enough to find accommodation for \$450 a week, but it is in a building which is run-down. You feel cramped in the small space but have a clean home. You enjoy time with your friends, church, playing with your pets, and growing pot plants in your bedroom. Every Sunday, your family tries to go to church as long as you have enough money leftover at the end of the week to bus there. Your younger siblings go to school for free but desperately need some new supplies and uniforms. You would like to save up for your own car so that you can drive to work instead of walking for 45 minutes every day.

### ACTIVITY:

» Below are your expected expenses each week. You save \$20 from your wages for emergencies. **How will you spend the remaining \$734?**

For each item you think is important circle the price. You might buy something more than once! When you finish, add up your total. If the total is more than \$734, decide how you will cut down on items. Follow this up with a discussion on social justice.

ITEM	ITEM PRICE PER WEEK
Rent	\$450
Electricity (you made a late payment last month so owe a late fee of \$25 as well)	\$70
Phone (your grandparents live overseas and you like to talk to them)	\$8
Food	\$150
Cleaning items	\$8
Bug spray (there are lots of flies at the moment)	\$5
Transport	\$8 per bus trip \$2 if it is just you
Laundromat (per wash)	\$6

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Continued...

ITEM	ITEM PRICE PER WEEK
New heater (it is getting cold)	\$25
Jack needs new school shoes	\$30
School supplies. Pens, books... (per sibling)	\$14
Jack is invited to his friend's birthday and wants to take along a gift	\$10
Lucy needs a new uniform that fits her	\$50
New hair brush (you promised Lucy last month)	\$5
It is your birthday this week. Buy a cake?	\$10
Go out for dinner with the family?	\$50
Your friends are going to a cafe and have invited you along too	\$5
Pet food	\$10
Ice creams for when you and your mum pick up your siblings from school.	\$8 each time
Contribution to church (each week)	\$10
Movie night with your mum (free babysitting)	\$20
Money towards the car you want to buy	\$20
New plant for your collection	\$4

**TOTAL:**

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