**Theme Starter – *Huckleberry Finn***

**Small Group Discussion**

1. Make a chart with two columns: My Freedoms and My Slavery. In each column, write ways in which you are free and ways in which you consider yourself enslaved. Do you feel enslaved by others or by your own traits and choices? Clarify this on the charts. In a small group, discuss the freedom and slavery charts. In what ways can individuals free themselves from their enslavements?
2. In your own words, define civilization. What behaviors would a civilized person and society exhibit? What factors would cause a person to reject civilization in favor of freedom? Why do people still “drop out” of school and society? Can a person ever escape social responsibility, conformity, and civilization? Discuss in a small group. Record your responses on paper.
3. Make a chart listing simple ways you have been taught to conform (forming lines, raising hands, wearing clothes, using inside and outside voices, saying thank you and please). Who taught you this behavior? What were/are the reasons for these teachings? In a small group, discuss whether these acts of conformity have been good or bad for society. Discuss your answers with a small group.
4. The betrayal of people and/or principles can have a devastating effect on a variety of relationships and events. Have you ever observed or experienced the act of betrayal? What feelings were associated with the betrayal? What lesson(s), if any, was learned? Discuss your answers with a small group. Record your responses on paper.