

Economics: A Christian Worldview – \$100 Life Auction

(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)

Purpose

To introduce students to economic concepts like scarcity, government wealth distribution, and individual economic choices.

Time

20-25 minutes

Instructions

1. ROUND 1

Read Round 1 instructions together. Give students 5-7 minutes to decide.

Let students share their choices in pairs or small groups, then discuss together as a class.

2. ROUND 2 – NEW RULES (5–7 minutes)

Your choices must now follow these rules:

- You **must choose** “Job security”
- You **may NOT choose** “Work from home”
- You **must spend at least \$20 on housing**
- You **may NOT choose both** “Lots of free time” and “High income”

You may revise your choices.

Let students share their choices in pairs or small groups, then discuss together as a class.

3. ROUND 3 – NEW RULES (TAXES & REDISTRIBUTION, 5 minutes)

Now announce:

- Everyone must pay a \$20 tax.
- Subtract \$20 from your remaining money.

Then choose a few students (or a group) and say: **These students receive a \$20 benefit.**

Those students may now:

- Add an item
- Upgrade an item
- Reduce a negative choice (like removing a long commute)

Let students share their choices in pairs or small groups, then discuss together as a class.

4. After Round 3, ask students:

- “Who has money left over?”
- “Why didn’t you spend it?”

Now ask this:

- “Who lost something that you originally chose?”
-

5. Debrief Questions

1. Who got what they wanted in Round 1?
 2. What changed in Round 2 when rules were added?
 3. How did Round 3 feel if you paid the tax?
 4. How did it feel if you received the benefit?
 5. Did the same policy affect everyone equally?
 6. Did anyone change behavior because of the tax?
-

6. Core Takeaways

- Scarcity: You can't have everything
 - Opportunity cost: Every choice has a cost
 - Subjective value: People prioritize differently
 - Rules and policies change outcomes
 - Redistribution creates both winners and losers
-

Key Line (Write on Board)

“Every policy has trade-offs—some people gain, and others give something up.”

Economics: A Christian Worldview – Life Auction

You are building your “ideal life.” Choose the items you want, but you may not exceed \$100.

Items for Sale:

- Nice house – \$40
- Cheap apartment – \$10
- High income – \$30
- Low-stress job – \$25
- Dream job – \$35
- Job security – \$25
- Work from home – \$20
- Long commute – **ADD** \$10
- Lots of free time – \$30
- No weekends (you work weekends) – **ADD** \$10
- Strong family life – \$25
- Travel every year – \$20
- Close friends nearby – \$15
- Fame/social media following – \$20

Round 1 (5 Minutes) – Record Your Choices

Choose freely from the list. Stay within your budget!

Money: \$100

Choices:

Total Spent: _____

Money Left: _____

Round 2 – WAIT FOR NEW RULES! (5 Minutes) – Record Your Choices

Choose freely from the list. Stay within your budget!

Money: \$100

Choices:

Total Spent: _____

Money Left: _____

Round 3 – WAIT FOR NEW RULES! (5 Minutes) – Record Your Choices

Money: \$100

Choices:

Total Spent: _____

Money Left: _____