

Evaluate these three situations from the aspect of how our freedom impacts on other people's freedom:

(1) Daniel is eighteen years old and feels upset with the rules his parents have established about his curfew, schoolwork, and jobs he has to do at home. Daniel wants to spend more time with his friends and less time with his family.

Daniel is the oldest in the family and he has two sisters and two brothers. His sisters and his brothers really look up to him but they have become upset with all the arguing that is taking place.

Daniel decides that he should leave home and live with his friends for awhile. They are really cool and have no rules. He really feels free to do anything he wants to do. He has finally found freedom.

(2) Lisa feels that she doesn't have enough freedom at school. She makes a long list of changes which she would like to see at her school. One of her changes involves the Ladies Room at school. She feels bad because anytime she goes in a Ladies Room, she encounters kids smoking or using drugs.

Lisa feels that any student caught smoking or using drugs in the Ladies Room should be suspended from school for three days. Lisa feels this would protect her freedom to use the Ladies Room.

(3) Steve is always talking about how expensive things are in stores at the mall and how much money these stores make. He feels that sometimes it is ok to rip off these stores because he really isn't hurting anyone. After all aren't storeowners rich? He feels it is fine as long as he doesn't get caught.

Jesus says:

John 11:10 "But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

Matthew 9:36 At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.

Mark 10:23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

Luke 6:27 "But to you who hear, I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

Objective: To help our teenagers understand that our freedom to do what we choose can impact on other people by examining three situations and discussing them from the point of view of their impact on other people.

Icebreaker: How do you think you would feel if you were put in prison for three years?

Introduction: Freedom is very important to all of us. Everyone hates it when they feel they have to do something. Some people feel that rules are meant to be broken because they feel rules take away freedom.

As we examine these three situations, let us look at them from the point of view as to how they effect everyone's freedom.

Some possible discussion questions:

1.--- Is it unreasonable for parents to have rules? What are some examples of rules your parents have? Do you consider your parents rules fair or unfair?

At this stage of your life, do you find yourself spending less time with your family and more time with your friends? How do you think your parents and brothers and sisters feel about this? How do you feel about it?

Do you feel the oldest in the family has a special obligation to his or her youger brothers and sisters? How do you feel when arguing is taking place in your home? How do you feel when your parents are arguing?

Has Daniel really found freedom? How would Daniel's exercise of his freedom impact on his parents' freedom? On the freedom of his brothers and sisters? What is the difference between freedom and escape from responsibility?

2.--- Do you feel that you have enough freedom at school? What are some specific rules that you would like to change at your school? How do you feel about the conditions of the bathrooms at your school?

How do you feel about Lisa's rule? Is she wrong to take away the freedom of other students? Are they wrong in taking away her freedom?

3.--- What do you think of Steve's moral reasoning? If Steve were to get caught, would that make his action wrong? How does Steve's stealing effect our freedom?

Jesus says:

Some points for discussion:

John 11:10 Can you think of some examples of "walking at night"? If "the light" is not in someone, how can it effect the freedom of others?

Matthew 9:36 When we are "troubled and abandoned", how is our freedom effected? When there is no leadership ("sheep without a shepherd"), how is our freedom effected?

Mark 10:23 What are some ways wealth can give us freedom? Take it away?

Luke 6:27 How does hatred take your freedom away? Is it really possible to love your enemies?