

UNFAIR

The following is a role-play that involves five people. The background can be given to the whole group and the instructions to the characters only. Follow up with a discussion on the issues that are raised.

Characters:

Boy 1, Girl 1, Frank (who are brothers and sister); Boy 2 and Girl 2 (who are brother and sister). Frank is a freshman in college; the other four are seniors in high school.

Background:

The five of you have been close friends for about 10 years. You grew up in the same neighborhood, living only two houses apart. As your parents were friends, you often spent time at each other's homes, always staying with your friends when your parents went out of town. You were the nucleus of the neighborhood gang. You walked to and from school together; in high school, when Frank got a car, the five of you always rode together.

You, then, have done just about everything together. When you are with a person that much, you wind up being able to talk to each other pretty well. As best friends you've shared a lot of problems and hurts with each other. That has made you even closer. Really, the only area that you haven't been a group is the area of religion. Boy 2 and girl 2 have always gone to the Methodist church and Sunday school every Sunday. Boy 1 and girl 1 never got interested in the church thing, though Frank would go every once in a while.

Last fall when Frank came home from college for a weekend, he seemed a little different. When the five of you went out for a pizza, he all of a sudden started talking about becoming a Christian. He seemed a little embarrassed about the whole thing, and you at first thought he had gone off the deep end and was going to start witnessing or something. But he didn't. He just said that he had become a Christian, that his relationship with God meant a lot to him now, and that he felt that he was a lot better person for it.

Frank came home about every other weekend, and you really started to notice a change in his behavior. He really was easier to get along with; he didn't get angry when Boy 1 accidentally backed his car into a tree; he seemed to listen more closely to what you said, to care more openly about you. This was strange at first, but you came to like the changed Frank. Sometimes big brothers can be a real pain; Frank was turning out to be a real neat person. When you finally asked him about all this, he just said that he was trying hard to be a Christian, and that with God's help, he felt that he could be different.

Frank was coming home for Christmas on Christmas Eve, as he had to work at his job at school all day. It was a snowy night, and about 50 miles south of home Frank's car was hit by a semi-trailer which jackknifed on the expressway. Frank was killed instantly. You found out later that the truck driver was drunk.

It was a rough time for both your families. The four of you, especially, felt a deep sense of loss. Somehow you couldn't talk about it the way you used to, maybe it just hurt too much right now. But you still held together as a group; you cared about each other.

Instructions to Boy 1 and Girl 1:

Frank's loss has been really rough on you. You are emotionally worn out. The hurt will never be gone, but you have learned to live with it. But you are angry now. The new Frank was a neat person, and you were almost starting to believe what he was saying about God and all that. But how can a God who is supposed to be love allow someone to be killed like Frank was. It was the other guy who was drunk! It simply isn't fair. Frank was young, with a lot to do in his life, and he was a Christian! What kind of God is it that can let someone like Frank die, and the drunken truck driver live?

Finally in desperation, you have decided to talk to Boy 2 and Girl 2. They have gone to church for some reason, maybe they understand what is going on. (Take it from there.)