

Jeremiah 17:9-10

Cheating

In an English exam you need an A or B to pass the course for the semester. You studied long and hard. Your friend didn't study at all. While the teacher is busy checking papers, you notice that your friend is copying answers from another student who always does well. You get a C while your friend gets an A.

1. How do you feel?
2. What would you do as a Christian?
3. Does this experience change your relationship with your friend?
4. Would you discuss the issue with your friend? Other friends? Your parents? The teacher?
5. How would you feel if you were the cheater with an A knowing your friend studied and received only a C when he needed at least a B?

Proverbs 1:29-31

Instant Gratification

The group is going to an amusement park and you need \$20. Your parents agree to help you earn it by allowing you to keep money from the recycling of aluminum cans and the return deposits on glass bottles. Normally the money is put into the family entertainment budget. On the way home with the money, you discover a new CD by your favorite group and decide you can get the money for the trip from the next returns, so you buy it. When you get home your parents are very upset and tell you that they will not help you earn any more money and, because you broke the agreement, you cannot go on the trip even if you have the money.

1. How do you feel?
2. How do you think your parents might feel?
3. Who was cheated?
4. Has an impulsive act such as the above ever cost too high a price?
5. If you were the parent would you have handled this differently? If so, how?

Proverbs 3:1-6

Trust

You are not allowed to go on any type of dates. You've agreed to meet your girl/boy friend at the movies. You tell your parents you are going to the movies with your best friend. Your parents discover what you did. Now you can go nowhere unless taken and picked up by your parents. Over the last few weeks you feel they are beginning to trust you again.

1. Did you "fess up" or try to "fake it?"
2. Will you go sneak again now that they are beginning to trust you again?
3. How do you think your parents felt when you betrayed their trust in you?
4. Would a Christian react differently?

Proverbs 16:6

Loyalty

You are at your friend's house. Your friend "sneaks" a cookie for you. You say nothing even though you think it is not quite right not to ask. On the way home from school, you and your friend stop at the store to pick up an item for your mom. When you leave the store, your friend gives you a candy bar. After you've eaten it, your friend tells you he "sneaked" it for you from the store.

1. How does the candy taste now?
2. How do you feel about your friend?
3. Should you tell someone? Who?
4. Should you have discussed it earlier when you noticed that the friend was "sneaking" the cookie at home?
5. Would you discuss this with your parents? Why or why not?
6. If this pattern continues, does your friend deserve your loyalty?
7. Can you get into trouble for being loyal? How or why not?
8. Does loyalty overlook anything and everything?

Deuteronomy 5:16, 1 Samuel 19:1-3

Obedience

You are not allowed by your parents to call guys on the telephone. You feel times have changed and your parents are old-fashioned. You go to a neighbor's house "to use the phone." The neighbor discovers you are using the phone to call guys and also knows that your parents do not approve or allow it.

1. In what position do you place the neighbor?
2. Do you know why your parents do not want you to phone guys?
3. Do you open discussions with your parents, or just complain to your friends?
4. Do you expect parents to automatically know how you feel? Why or why not?
5. Will your parents trust you if they find out?
6. Did you consider the consequences of being found out?

Matthew 25:34-40

Respect for Others

Your youth group goes on a retreat. You find yourself the only person from your group in a discussion group. You are not being included so you speak up but the others ignore you. You ask a question or make a suggestion. They pour cold water on your idea. You attempt to sit closer to the nucleus of the group and someone pulls the chair out from under you just as you sit down.

1. How did you feel?
2. Could you have done anything to improve your situation?
3. What should the group have done?
4. Did it upset you differently coming from a church group rather than a school group?
5. If you had been part of the antagonizing group, what would or could you have done to improve the situation?
6. Have you ever been part of a group that excluded someone? How did you feel? What were your thoughts? Your actions?
7. Would a Christian react differently?

VALUES

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Sometimes it's easier to get into Scripture when it can be looked at in light of some everyday situations. The following six situations are designed to help kids to think through various passages of Scripture and how they might apply to them personally. One good way to use them would be to divide the entire group into six small groups and give one situation to each group and give them enough time to work through the discussion questions. When they are finished, each group can then share their conclusions with the other groups.