

CASE STUDIES

Here are case studies designed especially for youth groups. Get together in groups of about 4. Have one person read the case study out loud; then discuss each question as a group.

VIOLENCE

Jake is 15 and an only child. He spends a lot of time at the video arcade playing the martial arts combat and shoot'em up games with friends. His dad has been long gone since the divorce several years ago; and his mom is gone a lot with her career. Although a bright student, Jake is bored with school and is not

really sure he wants to grow up and be "successful" like his parents. Jake begins to hang out late at night with some guys from school, as they cruise around town looking for excitement. They begin doing a little shoplifting, vandalism, graffiti, and sneaking into the porno flicks downtown. Pretty soon that becomes boring too. One night they see a girl from school who hangs with the "in" crowd walking to her car in a secluded lot. One of the guys says, "Hey, let's have some fun with the babe." They start by playing keep-away with her purse until the young woman starts fighting back. A couple of the guys begin to retaliate, mocking her attempts to defend herself. Before it's over some of the guys are taking turns beating and raping her. Jake watches, trying to be cool while inside he knows this is wrong; but fear of rejection, ridicule and physical harm

keep him silent. These guys are not just poor, underprivileged kids who grew up in violent and abusive neighborhoods; some are above average students and enjoy the "good" life.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jake get involved with this group of guys?
 - He was into shoplifting.
 - He was bored.
 - He wanted to feel accepted.
 - He wanted to belong to a tough gang and hurt someone.
 - other: _____
2. What or who is to blame for Jake's involvement in the group and the things the guys did? Explain.
 - Jake
 - Jake's youth group
 - Jake's parents
 - the guys in the group
 - other: _____
3. What effect do you think the video games and other forms of entertainment had on Jake's actions and attitudes? Explain.
 - little effect
 - some effect
 - big effect
4. If you were a part of the jury who tried these guys for what they did to the girl, what do you think should happen to

