

Here's a case study dealing with friendship, forgiveness, cheating, priorities, and more.

Print up for everyone or read to them the following situation, and invite them to respond to the questions that follow.

Best Friends

Jack, a Christian, hadn't had time to do his homework the night before. There was a special speaker at his church, and Jack was attending and learning a lot. His best friend Bill, also a Christian, was enjoying the speaker, too, but he had done his homework in the afternoon. He didn't have a job, as Jack did.

So Jack asked Bill if he could copy his homework this morning. Just this once. Bill agreed. After all, he and Jack were best friends.

The next day as they picked up their homework papers at the end of the period, each had a note attached—"See me at the end of class." When they went up afterward, the teacher said, "It looks like you two copied off each other."

Wanting to be honest, Bill confessed—yes, they had copied off each other. The teacher then told them that they'd both receive F's for the assignment and that notes would be mailed home to inform their parents.

Jack was furious. Out in the hallway he let Bill know how angry he was—that their friendship was over. To this day neither has tried to renew the friendship. ◇

Follow up with a discussion and Bible study on these passages:

Colossians

3:12-14—Ask, "What is to be the measure of our forgiveness? How much are we to forgive?"

Matthew

6:14-15—Ask, "What will be the measure of God's forgiveness? How much will he forgive?"

Matthew

18:21-35—Ask, "What are the disciples learning?"

Questions for discussion:

Where did Jack go wrong? What did he do that he shouldn't have done?

1. Went to church to hear the speaker
2. Got a job
3. Asked to copy Bill's homework
4. Remained silent in front of the teacher
5. Became angry
6. Broke off the friendship
7. Never forgave Bill
8. Other

Where did Bill go wrong? What did he do that he shouldn't have done?

1. Went to church to hear the speaker
2. Did his homework
3. Let Jack copy his homework
4. Wanted to be honest
5. Confessed
6. Never forgave Jack
7. Other