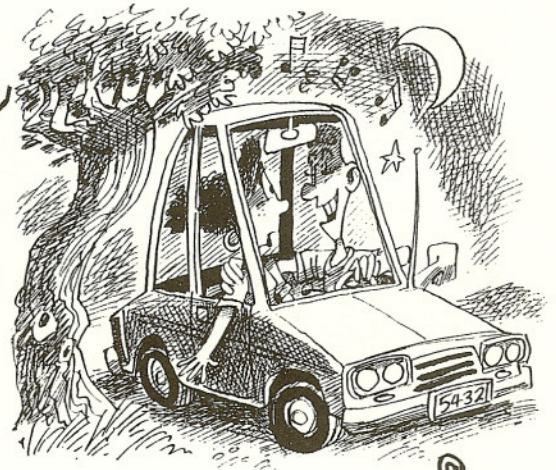


WOULD YA, SHOULD YA, COULD YA?



1 Answer the following question: **What might be different if the Ten Commandments had been called the Ten Suggestions?**

2 On the lines before each of the following situations, write the letter **A** (Always), **S** (Sometimes), or **N** (No way).

- a. _____ If you went to a party and realized marijuana was being smoked, you would leave immediately.
- b. _____ If you were collecting money for the food bank in your area with two other friends and they tried to talk you into keeping some of the money to go play video games, you would do it.
- c. _____ If you were given the chance to cheat on a history test, you would take the opportunity.
- d. _____ If you were asked to contribute money to help a friend get an abortion, you would donate something.
- e. _____ If your parents grounded you from the mall, you would go there behind their backs.
- f. _____ If you had clothes you no longer wanted, you would donate them to the Salvation Army or another charity.
- g. _____ If you had to do a book report, you would write something based on watching the movie.
- h. _____ If you were asked to volunteer time to work at a homeless shelter, you would look into doing it.

3 What do you think? **A = AGREE** **NS = NOT SURE** **D = DISAGREE**

- | | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|----------|
| a. A decline in moral values is the number one problem facing the country. | A | NS | D |
| b. Females are more moral than males. | A | NS | D |
| c. There is a great difference between what young people truly believe about right and wrong and what young people think they are supposed to believe. | A | NS | D |
| d. Young people are more concerned about not getting caught doing wrong than trying to do the right thing. | A | NS | D |
| e. When deciding right from wrong, people must decide for themselves. | A | NS | D |
| f. Young people understand the difference between what is right and what is wrong. | A | NS | D |

4 If you were to talk with a seventh grade Sunday school class about morality, what would you tell them about how to know the difference between right and wrong? _____

5 Read each of the passages and complete the sentences.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 No one can do right all the time because _____

Mark 10:31 Christ turns the world's values around by _____

Luke 3:7, 8; 11-14 Right living means _____

Ephesians 2:1-5 Being dead in our sins means we should now _____

1 John 2:15-17 Christians need to reject the world's values because _____

Date Used: _____

Group: _____

WOULD YA, SHOULD YA, COULD YA?

Topic: Morality

Purpose of this Session:

The conceptions of what moral means to today's adolescents are varied and blurred. What is right and what is wrong has become distorted and convoluted. Parents and the church must become more intentional in teaching values and moral standards. This TalkSheet offers you just that opportunity.

To Introduce the Topic:

Have the members play tug-of-war. A rope is not necessary if the boys sit in a circle with their arms and legs locked together while the girls try to pull them apart. Follow up the game with the comment, "Trying to decide right from wrong is a lot like tug-of-war. You can feel pulled in two directions." After the introduction, pass out the TalkSheets.

The Discussion:

Item #1: Talk about why God gave us commandments. Ask the question, "Were they meant to make our lives miserable or were they given because this is the best way to live our lives?" Explore why more and more people are living contrary to God's way and the present and future consequences of doing so.

Item #2: Each of these brief tension getters can help your group explore morality in practical situations. You can also refer back to these when you wrap up the discussion.

Item #3: Poll the students on each of the statements. If everyone agreed on a particular one, go on to the next. If there is a wide difference of opinion, have a pro and con discussion.

Item #4: See if the kids can back up what they say with biblical support.

Item #5: Each of the passages address Christian morality. Ask several volunteers to complete the sentences, then discuss what they had to say about Christian morality.

To Close the Session:

Summarize what has been said during the TalkSheet discussion. Tell the group members that their beliefs and behaviors today will have a profound effect on their present and future lives. Morality or the lack of it still matters even though it is in decline. God gave us commands not to ruin our lives but because these guidelines are the best way to live. Challenge the teens to choose God's way as their way. Choosing his way is choosing life (Deuteronomy 30:15-18).

Outside Activity:

Ask the kids to record how many of the Ten Commandments are broken in the next TV program they watch. The next time the group gets together, individuals can share their findings and discuss the implications of societal disregard for God's morality.