



Student Support Program

THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

Scenarios, Scruples and Solutions

A fun game of "What would you do?"



By the SSP Committee

If you've been reading these newsletters for a while, then you know pretty much every article is filled with advice. We strive to give you scripturally based counsel on everything from dating to school to parents to friendships. In other words, we've been giving you a lot of *answers*. This month, we're going to turn the tables on you and ask you *questions*.

We know that you're faced with challenges every day. Some challenges are big and others are small. Some problems don't seem like a big deal, so you never address them. Some are so overwhelming you feel like there's nothing you can do that will make a difference.

We've created a few scenarios for you to think about. Perhaps you've experienced one or more of these situations — or something similar — in your own lives. So, here's what you should do. Get a bunch of the young people together, or just a few besties, and go through each scenario and answer the following questions:

- How would you feel in this situation?
- What are the other people involved probably feeling?
- What can you personally do to improve this situation?

Do yourselves a favor and don't just quickly give the "Sunday School answer". Imagine that you're actually in these situations and give the "real

world answer" first. What would you *really* do? Then discuss what could be done to help improve the situation. If you're having trouble with any of the scenarios, grab a mentor and ask them. And don't forget to have fun, too.

New in Town

You have recently relocated to a new branch of the church in order to attend college. You don't know anyone in this new congregation. While the members are very welcoming, you find that many have close family ties and tight friendships that have been established. After several months, you find yourself feeling left out and on the outside socially.

Sticks and Stones

You overhear another church member making negative remarks about you. At first you feel like you can let it roll off your back, but after several days you realize you haven't forgotten it. In fact, you are feeling more hurt and resentful than you were upon initially hearing the remarks.

Where's the Support?

You organized a church event, and not very many people showed up. The event went well and everyone who came enjoyed themselves, but afterward you felt kind of bad that you put so much effort into something that not many people attended.

On the Outs

There's another young person in your branch who nobody likes because he's socially awkward. Even though he's a pretty nice guy, he gets left out because it's difficult to relate to him and nobody really knows what to say to him. Whenever he does hang

out with the group, he puts a damper on everything. But you can tell that his feelings get hurt when he's not included.

Threatening Threads

A deaconess in your branch asks to speak with you privately. She tells you very politely that she's concerned about the clothing you've been wearing to church. She says that it's too "sexy" for a Sunday service. She said that several of the young brothers have made comments that your clothing is distracting to them. She asks that you please reconsider your church wardrobe.

The Endless Testimony

There is an elderly sister in your branch who always gives a *really* long testimony every Sunday (10+ minutes). All the young people just tune her out (and some even groan when she gets up to testify) because she says the same thing every time. She's lonely and depressed since her husband passed away, and she gives all the details of her many illnesses. It's such a downer.

Laws of Attraction

There's a guy in church that a lot of girls like because he's a good catch. Even though they don't admit to it, they compete for his attention and try to position themselves nearby him. There's an unspoken competition going on for his affection and attention. Sometimes you're not sure if the competition is driven by desire for the guy or the desire to just win.

Remember, as you imagine yourself in these scenarios, ask yourself these questions:

- How would you feel in this situation?
- What are the other people involved probably feeling?
- What can you personally do to improve this situation?

If your Sunday School or MBA teacher is amenable, ask if you can go through this list of scenarios at your next lesson. You might be surprised by what you learn.

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