



Scenarios, Scruples, and Solutions III

By Bro. Jonathan Scolaro

New year, new you, right? Well we have some good ideas to help you start building a great 2017 and get you on the right path. So are you ready for a pretty great exercise? Good. Here goes: for each of the following scenarios, determine how you would feel, how others involved might feel, and then how you would take action. The best way to do this is to figure out your stance, but then find scripture to help you process your initial reaction. Meaning, your reaction could change after finding out what the Word has to say about it. Best-case scenario: discuss these as a group, with friends, with brothers and sisters or with anyone you think could provide helpful insight to these real-life (and sometimes really stressful) scenarios.

Scenario 1: Caught Off Guard

You're hanging out and one of your Christian friends starts asking you questions about your church. How can you believe in the Book of Mormon and not be "Mormons"? Why do we need the Book of Mormon if we already have the Bible? And doesn't the Bible say that whoever adds or takes away from it will be cursed? You're taken off guard so you have no idea how to respond. In fact, you start to wonder if your friend might be making some good points.

Scenario 2: Charting the Future

You're a senior in high school and considering where to attend college. So many options... it's overwhelming! You are debating going out of state and moving away on your own. Depending on where you choose, you may end up far from any branch of the Church. You wonder how much

Option 1: Get a bunch of young people together, or just a few close friends, and go through each scenario one by one.

Option 2: Assign one scenario to each friend before you meet together, and have that person research scriptures related specifically to their scenario. Then come together and take turns sharing and discussing your in-depth findings.

Option 3: Provide this list to your youth teacher for use in an MBA or Sunday School class. Break into small groups, and after some discussion time, have each group take turns presenting their thoughts to the entire class. (You may discover that this activity fills two or three entire MBA classes!)



However you approach this activity, remember that it's important to base your discussion in God's Word. We want His opinion in the matter, and not our own personal opinions. So, pray before discussing these topics with friends; make sure you use Bible and Book of Mormon scriptures to back up your opinion; and seek the advice of a teacher, deaconess, or minister when you have questions. As you read each scenario, 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 the situation?

Don't just quickly give the "Sunday School answer." Imagine 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. Have fun!

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Church proximity should rank against academics or friends when deciding where to attend school. After all, college is important, and you don't want to screw up this part of your life!

Scenario 3: Dusting Off Your "Sticks"

A certain minister from your branch is always asking the young people if they've read any scripture lately. On one of these occasions, your friend remarks to you that he doesn't enjoy reading in general, that the language in the scriptures is difficult for him to understand, and that he really doesn't see the need for it. After all, listens to the preaching at church and Christian radio. Isn't that enough?

Scenario 4: Three's A Crowd

You're starting your sophomore year of college, and to save money you and a friend decide to share a two-bedroom apartment. A few days into your search, your friend says that he or she has a great idea. In order to split the rent three ways, his or her boyfriend/girlfriend will move in with you two. Better yet, your friend suggests that you invite your boyfriend/girlfriend to do the same. Do you agree? Do you let the two of them share a room while you have a room by yourself? Do you share a room with your friend while his or her significant other sleeps across the hall? Or do you disagree altogether?

Scenario 5: Leveling Up

You've been baptized for a few years and have been consistent in your Church participation. You regularly attend meetings and you try to support special Church activities whenever possible. However, you feel like you could be doing more. You wonder if you're living up to the full potential that God has planned for you. How do you move up to a higher spiritual level?

Scenario 6: The Token Single Friend

You meet up with a group of friends, and you realize that everyone is part of a couple, except you. It seems like it's always this way...your friends always seem to be dating while you just maintain friendships. One of your friends says that you're too picky. Another says that you're too shy. On the one hand, you've heard in Church that it's not good to have a relationship just for the sake of a relationship. But on the other hand, if you wait too long, what if all the good candidates get taken? Sometimes you feel like God has destined you to a life of loneliness.