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**MORE TEEN SCENES**  
**STUDY GUIDE**

**BULLYING**

1. Ronnie finds herself in a loyalty situation. Is she willing to do what she doesn't think is fair in order to keep her new friends? What should she do?
2. Sometimes we think if we only behave in a certain way this one time, it won't be so bad. Is that really ever true? Do you think that Ronnie's new friends will let her have the freedom to act the way she wants after this incident? Does being part of a group mean giving up some of your own freedom? Under what conditions is that sacrifice worth it?
3. Often our society tells us to stay out of what doesn't concern us. It encourages apathy toward others. How is this true in Matt's situation? Should he have made a different decision? What could he realistically have done?
4. Jesus made it very clear how we should treat others. Read Matthew 25:31-46. How does this reading direct both Ronnie and Matt to behave? Discuss its meaning for Christians today.



**FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:**

5. We call this type of behavior ‘bullying.’ How much bullying occurs in your own school situation? Are there different levels of bullying, such as psychological, physical, emotional? Identify some of the situations in which you have found yourself being a victim to bullying.

6. Schools have a difficult time dealing with bullying. There are many different reasons. First of all, much of this behavior can occur outside of the school environment. Secondly, other students refuse to become involved either because of apathy or fear for themselves. Thirdly, the victims themselves often deny or refuse to report any acts of bullying for fear of reprisal. Are there any ways you think schools could improve in the way they deal with bullying?

7. A new form of bullying is occurring more often through the use of Instant Messages on the Internet and cell phones. The abuse has been so significant that some teenagers consider suicide as a way of finding relief from this emotional and psychological abuse. Discuss ways that a Christian young person could help deal with this type of bullying. If you find yourself involved in it, what are some options you might consider to resolve the situation?

**CHASTITY**

1. Jen is clearly not happy in her relationship with Adam. Her friends offer some very strong arguments in support of how they deal with their own relationships. Although Molly is very clear about her own solutions, they do not seem to “feel right” for Jen at first. Have you ever found yourself getting advice with which you were uncomfortable? What helped you decide how to behave?

2. Jen’s other friend Sara believes that relationships are more than opportunities to share your physical friendship. She believes that learning how to deal with conflicts in a relationship is very important. She tells Jen that communicating is a better long-term answer in maintaining healthy relationships. What do you think about her advice?

3. Society often helps us justify our own actions by using the media and music to give us models of what is acceptable behavior. Would the lyrics in today’s music support Molly’s viewpoint or Sara’s advice about relationships? Why do you say this? What role models do we find in the television shows that are directed toward young people today? Do they support Molly’s behavior or Sara’s behavior in relationships?

4. Sara tells Jen that using seduction is a type of control in a relationship. Do you agree? What are some other ways we can act to try to control another person in a relationship? Consider external controls like the date of the prom. How do these play a role in keeping a relationship going? Is relying on control the best way to maintain a relationship? What could be some disadvantages to this situation?

5. St. Paul addresses the issue of chastity in Galatians 5: 13-26. How does chastity give a person freedom? Under what conditions do you think a person who was living by the fruits of the Spirit could have a meaningful relationship with someone else? Do you think what St. Paul says is realistic for a Christian in the world today?



**FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:**

6. Our society tells us that we must assure that our own needs get met. We call this living in a “ME” society. The Gospels indicate that we should care more about others’ needs than our own. Jesus did this in the most ultimate way when He died on the cross for our sins. Do you think it is possible to find happiness in a relationship if each person is trying hard to make sure the other person’s needs are being met? Discuss this.

7. Many arguments are caused because we place very high expectations on the other person in a relationship. What should we consider essential in a relationship with another? How and when do we communicate these essentials to each other?

8. How does respect and honesty fit into a relationship? Is Molly being honest with her boyfriend when she chooses to seduce him at the beginning of a disagreement? Is she respecting her own body when she uses it in such a manipulative way? Do you predict that their relationship will be long term? Why or why not?

**ETHNIC PREJUDICE**

1. Will’s decision does not seem too difficult. However, when we have to deal with our emotions and underlying prejudices, such decisions always become harder. Do you think Will has ever thought about how he feels concerning ethnicity before? Sometimes we are put into situations that cause us to challenge our behavior. What arguments are presented by both Carla and Susan to persuade Will?

2. Carla makes it sound like a loyalty issue as well. She is trying to convince Will that it is un-American to stand up for immigrants like Chente. What arguments could be presented to counter this attitude?

3. Many times we are fearful and prejudiced about situations and people we don’t know. By putting ourselves in relationship with other people, we can learn to feel less prejudiced. How could Carla change her own attitudes about ethnicity?

4. This problem of prejudice is not unique to our society or country. Even the early Christians had a problem with this issue. Since Jesus was Jewish, some of the early Christians thought that the Gentiles should be excluded from the Church. St. Paul has words of advice to all of us in his letter to the Romans [Rom. 10:12-13]. Read this and discuss how it is applicable to the ethnic prejudice we find in our schools and society today.



**FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:**

5. Many times the “glue” that holds a group together is having a common enemy to exclude from their group. How does prejudice reinforce this way of holding groups together? How does this apply to our small cliques of friends? Does this “glue” work as a long-term bond in keeping a group together? Why or why not?
6. All of us have prejudices. We just naturally “pre-judge” certain people or situations. Discuss some of the ways we come to develop prejudices in our lives. What role does peer pressure play in our prejudices?
7. Teens are often victims of prejudice themselves. Have you ever gone into a mall store and found that adults were treating you unfairly and with prejudice? What causes this? How can you respond in a way that helps them overcome their prejudice?

**DRINKING**

1. Janet has to make a decision about whether to drink alcohol or beer. Probably she knew that this would be an issue before she got to the party. She was hesitant to even go inside. Why do you think Janet did not have her mind made up before she got there?
2. John expresses his opinion that drinking won’t hurt a person and will make the party more fun. Janet begins to contradict that. It is true that alcohol inhibits our anxieties, but it also impairs our ability to make other moral decisions. Sometimes people say cruel and hurtful things about each other that they would not do if they were sober. We know that date rape occurs more often when people are under the influence of alcohol. Do you agree with John’s statement? Why or why not?
3. Todd says that what our parents don’t know won’t hurt them. In other words, something is only morally wrong if we get caught and punished. That is often used as an excuse for immoral choices. Why is that excuse a sign of immaturity in judgment and decision-making?
4. It is important that we feel support by someone when we have to make an unpopular but moral decision. Who was willing to offer Janet her moral support? Have you ever been willing to support someone who was taking a moral stand? Explain.
5. St. Paul addresses the issue of drinking in Galatians 5: 13-26. How does drinking enslave us? How does living in the Spirit free us to experience happiness? Do you think what St. Paul says is realistic for a Christian in the world today?

**FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:**

6. Give the reasons for choosing to drink alcohol and the reasons for choosing not to drink alcohol. What decision should Janet make? Why?