

Decision Making – What would you do?

“What would you do?” problems focus on principles of faithful decision making. They can be introduced into almost any Sunday school lesson with any age group. Give your students practice with well-chosen examples. And be sure to give the children time to think about a problem before telling you what they would do. Teach them to think before they act.

“What would you do?” problems also make good Bible learning center activities. Let the children work on one or two, individually or in small groups, after the main lesson has been taught. Monitor their progress.

So Annoying! What would you do?

The pianist in your meeting plays a five-minute prelude before the Memorial Service begins. You try to use the time to quietly collect your thoughts. In fact, your ecclesia has a rule on its books that says this is supposed to be a time of silence. Sis. Beth sits near you and loves talking to people during the entire prelude. It is totally distracting.

- 1 – Will you say anything to Sis. Beth? Why?
- 2 – If you say something to her, *what* will you say, *when* will you say it, and *where* will you say it?
- 3 – If you say something to her, what kind of response do you hope to get? Why?
- 4 – What else can you do to address this problem? What shouldn't you do?

You talk to Sis. Beth and she apologizes. She makes a real effort to be quiet during the prelude for the next couple Sundays, but then she is back at it again!

- 5 – Will you do anything more? If so, what?
- 6 – How far are you prepared to press the issue? Why?

Look at the biblical principles of forgiveness below. How do they apply?

Principles of Forgiveness

Matthew 5:7

Matthew 5:23-26

Matthew 5:43-45

Matthew 6:12, 14-15

Matthew 18:15-18

Matthew 18:21-22

Matthew 18:23-35

- Take action right away to address the issue.
- Do not judge (condemn) the offending person, but show your concern for them.
- You can and should judge the action that occurred.
- You can and should expect repentance on the part of the offending person. This means an acknowledgement of the wrong and a promise to do better in the future. The issue can end here.
- You must be ready to forgive again, if necessary.
- You must be ready to overcome evil with good.