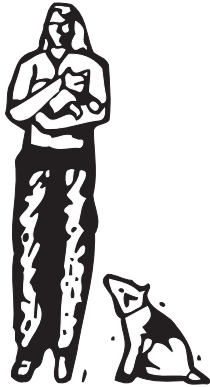


DON'T JUST SAY NO



PEER PRESSURE:
JR. HIGH



PEER PRESSURE:
HIGH SCHOOL



PEER PRESSURE:
COLLEGE



PEER PRESSURE:
CORPORATE

TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD



DISCUSS

Share a personal experience when you felt peer pressure.

What does it feel like when you . . .

Give in? Initially? Later On?

Hold your ground? Initially? Later On?

*Two roads diverged in a wood,
and I ... I took the one less
traveled by, And that has
made all the difference.*

—Robert Frost,
The Road Not Taken

*We know what happens
to people who stay in
the middle of the road.
They get run over.*

—Aneurin Bevan,
The Observer, 1953

LORI'S STORY

"My friend asked if she could use my I.D. one night so she could get into some clubs. I felt really bad saying no because I didn't want her to be mad at me. It put me in an awkward position. I told my roommate what had happened and then my friend asked my roommate for her I.D. Because I had already said no, it gave my roommate the strength to also say no. We both felt bad and really good at the same time."



DANIEL 1:1-7

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king’s palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king’s table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king’s service.

Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishel and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

How?



COMMENTARY

Culture Change: The literature and language of the Chaldeans was the focus of a three year, rigorous training to render these Hebrew boys fit for the king’s service. When they study Babylonian literature they are studying the Babylonian value system, including astrology.

Food Change: The Mosaic Law contained a strict dietary code distinguishing pure and impure food for the people of Israel to eat. This code made Israel distinct from other nations. The daily ration from the King’s table may have included types of food forbidden by the Law or meat offered to pagan idols.

Name Change: The four Jewish young men had names which honored the God of Israel. They were given names honoring pagan gods. Daniel meant, “My judge is God” - Belshazzar meant, “May Baal protect his life.” Hananiah meant, “The Lord has shown grace” - Shadrach meant, “The command of Aku.” Mishael meant, “Who is what God is?” - Meshach meant, “Who is what Aku is?” Azariah meant, “The Lord has helped” - Abednego meant, “Servant of Nego.”

What might the Israelite young men have been feeling?



DANIEL 1:8

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

DEFINITION

RESOLVE: To make a firm decision about. Syn. “Decide”: Firmness of purpose; resolution; determination.

DEFILE: To make filthy or dirty; befoul. To tarnish the luster of; render impure, corrupt. To profane. To make unclean or unfit for ceremonial use; desecrate. To violate the chastity of.

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

How?



DANIEL 1:9-16

Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

How did Daniel show that God’s way is better than the world’s way?



RACHEL AND SEAN

Rachel and Sean were growing Christians and wanted God to be a part of their relationship. They had been dating 4 months when Sean invited her to go to his out-of-town formal. As was the norm, it was assumed that they would share a hotel room together. At first they felt uncomfortable with it, but at the beginning of their relationship, they decided to not be sexually active so they knew nothing would happen if they stayed in the same room. They thought, "No big deal," and shared a room.



CASSANDRA

Cassandra trusted Christ as her Savior. She began to learn she was a new creation in Christ and pulled away from everything that was "old".

CASSANDRA THOUGHT:

- "I don't want to hang out with non-Christians. They're a bad influence on me."
- "I don't want to be with the girls on my hall because they are too wild."
- "My friends will see that I don't do those things anymore and know that I am a Christian."

HER FRIENDS THOUGHT:

- "Cassandra thinks she's better than us. She's holier than thou."
- "Cassandra doesn't like us anymore. All she likes are her Christian friends."
- "She won't do anything with us anymore. Christians are so exclusive but they're supposed to be loving."



CONTRAST

What would Daniel say to Rachel and Sean?

What would Daniel say to Cassandra?



DISCUSS

Describe a time when you were pressured to do something wrong?

CONSEQUENCES

If you had given in?

BENEFITS

If you didn't?



REFLECT

Do you tend to be a Rachel/Sean or a Cassandra?



TAKING A STAND

It had been hard for such a young believer. The word had gotten around the fraternity that Dan had become a Christian. There were a good number of brothers who weren't very happy about it. So they turned up the heat. They talked behind his back and they mocked him to his face. They even knelt down and pretended to worship him once he walked down the hall. But still he hung in there. Outside the house, his involvement with C.C.C. helped him nurture his faith. Within the house, he sought to live an exemplary life before his brothers.

Four years later, when Dan was a senior, a Campus Crusade staff man spoke to Dan's fraternity chapter on "How You Can Know God Personally." The living room was full. There had been a change in the house since Dan was a freshman, but the most revealing comment came from the brother who had given Dan the greatest grief. His comment card read, "If you are from the same organization that Dan is a part of, you are welcome in this house at any time."



CONFORMITY

Where do I succumb to the pressure to conform?

What specific passages speak to this issue?

How can I "resolve" not to "defile" myself and do right?



ISOLATIONISM

Do I tend to isolate myself from relationships with unbelievers?

How does this prevent me from reaching out to them?

What can I do to strike a balance between not conforming yet not isolating myself from relationships with non-Christians?

NOTE: While compromise is never an acceptable option for the Christian, isolation is sometimes an appropriate and often necessary course of action. The biblical term is "separation."

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Published by Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.