

VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE

for use with
Program 5

DOING THE RIGHT THING

In the Youth Guidance Video Series



EDUCATIONAL GOALS:

- 🍏 Children learn to think about whether something is right or wrong before making a choice.
- 🍏 Children learn that there's an important difference between doing what's right and doing what they can get away with.
- 🍏 Children learn guidelines for deciding what is the right thing to do.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

p. 2	How to Use This Video
p. 3	The Story
p. 3	How to Decide What's Right
p. 4	Discussion Questions
p. 5	Group Activities
p. 6	Writing Assignments
p. 7	Home Assignments
p. 8	Parents' Page
p. 9	About Michael Pritchard
p. 10	License Agreement

HOW TO USE THIS VIDEO

Use in classrooms, libraries, youth service agencies, youth groups, or show it to your kids at home. Ideal for parents, too.

YOU CAN CHOOSE![®] is an entertaining and thought provoking video series designed to help children develop a range of important life skills and a healthy self-esteem. Each episode presents an imaginative skit in which one character makes a tough choice with the help of a group of real elementary school children. In this program, ***Doing the Right Thing***, Rhonda and Fiona have to decide whether to turn in a lost wallet or spend the money having a good time.

In addition to learning the importance of doing what's right, viewers will see that everything they do involves choices and that they have the power within themselves to make the best choices.

You can greatly enhance the impact and usefulness of this video by following it up with discussions, writing assignments, learning activities, and by enlisting parental support. We have prepared this guide to help you in your efforts.

Before you show the tape, we recommend that you ask a few questions to start the kids thinking about the issues treated in the program. You'll find some appropriate questions in the "Discussion Questions" section of this guide.

Since the program is divided into three segments, you have the option of stopping the tape after any segment to talk about it. Here is how the program breaks down:

1. **Skit, Act I:** Rhonda and Fiona fall into a dilemma and face a difficult decision.
2. **Group Discussion:** School children explore the issues and decide what Rhonda and Fiona should do.
3. **Skit, Act II:** Rhonda and Fiona follow the kids' advice and discover the personal rewards that come from making a good choice.

While this discussion guide may appear to be written for classroom teachers, any group leader or parent will find it a useful tool for getting the most out of this ***You Can Choose!*** video program.

THE STORY

It's a lazy summer day, and Rhonda and Fiona have nothing to do. They'd like to go to the water park, but they don't have any money. Then they find a wallet on the playground, and suddenly things look brighter. There's enough money in the wallet to buy them a great time. But Rhonda starts getting pangs of conscience. Shouldn't they try to locate the owner or turn it in to the lost & found? After all, this money belongs to somebody else. Fiona sees it differently. She subscribes to the "finders keepers" philosophy and figures that if she had lost her wallet nobody would ever give it back. What should the girls do - turn in the money and forego the fun, or spend it even though it's not theirs? Just as Rhonda is about to take her half of the money to the lost & found, their friend Tuggy Turtle shows up frantically looking for his lost wallet. Rhonda happily gives him her share, and Fiona, seeing that the money belongs to a friend, realizes the error in her thinking and does likewise. In the end the girls decide that the day turned out pretty well after all, because they learned that doing what's right feels a lot better than doing what they can get away with

HOW TO DECIDE WHAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

Some decisions you make aren't terribly important. For example, you might decide to have chocolate ice cream instead of vanilla. But other decisions may involve a choice between right and wrong, and sometimes it's not easy to know what to do. Whenever you aren't sure what's the right thing to do, **stop and think!** Ask yourself these questions:

- * What does my conscience - that "little voice" inside my head - say about it?
- * Could it hurt anyone - including me?
- * Is it fair?
- * Would it violate the Golden Rule? (How would I feel if somebody did it to me?)
- * Have I ever been told that it's wrong?
- * Deep down how do I feel about it? Will I feel bad if I do it?
- * How will I feel about myself later if I do it?
- * What would adults I respect say about it?

If you still can't decide, talk it over with someone you trust and respect.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Questions to ask before showing the tape.

1. Have you ever found something that belonged to someone else and wanted to keep it? What did you do and how did you decide?
2. What's wrong with "finders keepers, losers weepers"?
3. Have you ever heard of the Golden Rule? Who can recite it and say what it means?

Questions to ask after showing the tape.

4. Did Rhonda and Fiona know the right thing to do when they found the wallet?
5. What made Rhonda and Fiona change their minds about keeping the money?
6. Do you think things would have turned out differently if Tuggy hadn't appeared? Explain.
7. Have you ever really wanted to do something, but deep down you felt it wasn't right? How did you decide what to do?
8. How often do you think about whether something is right or wrong before you decide to do it?
9. Why do people sometimes do the right thing even when it's not as easy or as much fun as something else?
10. When you're faced with a choice between right and wrong, what influences your decision?
11. What would happen if nobody cared about doing the right thing?
12. How do you know when something you might do is right or wrong?

GROUP ACTIVITIES

1. Have the class brainstorm ways to tell whether or not something is the right thing to do. List their ideas on the board. Compare their list with the one on the opposite page.

2. Divide the class into small groups. Give each group one of the following situations to role play. In each role play half the group wants to do the wrong thing and the other half wants to do the right thing. Each half tries to give strong reasons for their side. Discuss the results in class.

Situations:

➡ You pass an empty old house. In front of it there's a "No Trespassing" sign. But the front door is open. You really want to go in and see what's there. No one is around. What do you do?

➡ A group of kids who you think are really cool are picking on another kid. They want you to join them, and they say you're a nerd if you don't. You don't want to be left out, but you think picking on the other kid is unfair. What do you do?

➡ You're walking home from school, and you're really hungry because you forgot to bring your lunch that day. You pass by a fruit stand, and the fruit looks so good you can almost taste it. "They'll never miss just one apple," you think to yourself. And no one is looking. What do you do?

➡ Your best friend asks you to help him cheat on a test. He's never done it before and he promises he'll never do it again. What do you do?

3. Encourage the children to make up their own situations, and continue the role plays.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Pretend you're giving a speech on the topic "It's never okay to do the wrong thing." Write at least four reasons to back up the statement for your speech.
2. Write about a time when someone tried to get you to do something wrong. What did you say or do? How did you know whether it was right or wrong?
3. Write about someone you admire for doing the right thing in a difficult situation. Describe what you admire about this person.
4. Write at least five things you can say to yourself when you're tempted to do something wrong. Post them near your bed so you can read them from time to time.
5. Write a short story about someone who did the right thing when friends wanted him or her to do the opposite.
6. Write about a time when someone helped you do the right thing. Or: write a letter to that person thanking him or her for helping you.
7. Write a letter to someone in the news who did something that you don't think was right. Say why you don't think it was right, and why you think the person is setting a bad example for kids your age. Mail the letter.

HOME ASSIGNMENTS

To enlist the involvement of parents, make copies of the Parents' Page (see next page) and send them home with the children. Tell the children to discuss the video with their parents, and to perform the following activities.

1. Take home your list of ways to decide what's the right thing to do (page 3 plus any ideas you added in class). Discuss it with your parents or other adult family members. Ask them if they have anything to add.
2. Watch a television program with your family. Afterward, have a family discussion about the way characters in the program behaved. Can you find examples of characters either doing the right thing or not doing the right thing? What should any of the characters have done differently? Why?
3. For a week keep a daily record of choices you make that involve deciding between right and wrong. How do you feel about the choices you made? How could you do better?
4. Ask family members to tell you about a time when either they did the right thing and are really glad they did, or didn't do the right thing and are sorry about it. What would have resulted if they had made the opposite choice?

Note to the teacher or group leader: It might be a good idea to think of some way for the children to share the outcomes of these activities with each other. Perhaps they could give written or oral reports or discuss their experiences in small groups.

(Copy this page and send it home to the parents.)

PARENTS' PAGE

Dear Parent,

Your child is involved in learning-activities designed to enhance self-esteem, develop positive life skills, and empower young people to make good choices for themselves.

He or she may be asked to complete several tasks at home. Your cooperation with these activities will support our overall program.

The current lesson is about the importance of always doing what's right. We have shown a video entitled ***Doing the Right Thing***, which presents a skit and discussion about two people trying to decide whether or not to turn in a lost wallet. We urge you to ask your child to tell you about this video program and what he or she learned from it.

Here are some things you can do to encourage your child to always try to do what's right.

- Start with your own example. If you always base your decisions on what you believe is right, that will mean more than hours of lecturing.
- Take time to talk about issues of right and wrong with your child.
- When you watch TV or movies with your child, look critically at the way the characters behave and have a discussion about it.
- Be sensitive to what your child says about decisions involving right or wrong. Don't hesitate to correct statements like, "It doesn't matter--nobody will ever find out" or "Everybody does it."
- Encourage your child to think about whether something is right or wrong before acting.

ABOUT MICHAEL PRITCHARD

Michael Pritchard is a juvenile probation officer turned comedian / youth counselor / public speaker. After his college graduation in 1973, Mike went to work for the St. Louis Police Department and then moved to San Francisco's juvenile hall. In his years of working with young offenders, Mike discovered that his penchant for humor served as a powerful counseling tool, enabling him to break down communication barriers and help a lot of troubled kids turn their lives around. As Mike is fond of saying, "the shortest distance between any two people is a good laugh." Mike's unusual combination of talents gained him recognition as California's "Probation Officer of the Year" the same year that he won the San Francisco International Comedy Competition.

Whether he's being funny or serious, Mike's big love is talking with kids about the choices they make in their lives. He teaches young people that they have the power of choice, that they are responsible for the choices they make, and that they owe it to themselves to choose the best.



"The shortest distance between two people is a good laugh."

LICENSE AGREEMENT

This license grants you some very useful rights regarding the use of this videotape, including public performance rights:

You **may** show this video to groups of any size, for educational, cultural, entertainment, or counseling purposes, as long as you do not charge admission.

You **may** play this video on your institution's closed-circuit television system within a single building or campus. This right **does not** extend to multiple schools within a district.

You **may** permit viewers to watch this video on your premises, or lend it to them to take out.

Along with these rights come some equally important restrictions:

You may **not** duplicate, alter, or reproduce this tape in any manner, in whole or in part.

You may **not** broadcast, narrowcast, or cablecast this tape, in whole or in part.

These restrictions have the force of federal law, which provides severe civil and criminal penalties for infringements. (Title 17, United States Code, sections 501-506).

If you have any questions regarding this license agreement, or your intended use of this tape, please contact:

ELKIND+SWEET COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
273 Ninth St., San Francisco, CA 94103
1-800-359-5437
info@livewiremedia.com

The logo for Live Wire Media features the words "Live Wire Media" in a stylized, cursive font. The letters are primarily yellow and green, with a gradient effect. A small, stylized green plant with yellow flowers is positioned above the letter "i" in "Media".