

Civics: A Christian Worldview. Christians, Churches, Counsel (20-30 minutes)
TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Instructions

1. **Objective:** Students evaluate 8 scenarios of Christians and conflict or confrontation to practice the Biblical reaction to each one.
2. Print out these instructions and Scenarios 1-8 (Pages 2 and 3).
3. You will present these scenarios to the class, with each scenario having a victim, a wise Christian church member offering counsel, and a church council.
4. Take turns having students be victims and counselors (depending on the class size, all students should have a chance to at least be a victim or counselor).
5. Read Scenario 1 out loud and ask these three questions:
 - TO THE VICTIM: “What do you *feel* like doing?”
 - TO THE VICTIM: “What should you do as a Christian?”
 - TO THE COUNSELOR: “What is your counsel to this victim?”
6. The church council (the rest of the class) votes on which action(s) the victim should take:
 - Sue/demand payment/restitution/escalate.
 - Confront the offender privately and/or involve the church.
 - Swallow the wrong and forgive the offender.
 - Serve the offender anyway.
7. Reveal the best Biblical answer (suggested answers are under each scenario).
8. After a scenario is complete, rotate in new a new victim and counselor.
9. End with the below “Final Note.”

Final Note

Ask students when finished:

- Which answers felt *most unfair*?
- Which were *hardest* to accept?
- How would suing a Christian damage the church’s witness? In other words, how would unbelievers view Christians in these situations?

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SCENARIO 1:

A Christian family borrows expensive curriculum from you and never returns it. They stop answering messages.

- ASK THE VICTIM: (1) “What do you *feel* like doing? And (2) “What should you do as a Christian?”
- TO THE COUNSELOR: “What is your counsel to this victim?”
 1. Sue/demand payment/restitution/escalate.
 2. Confront the offender privately and/or involve the church.
 3. Swallow the wrong/forgive the offender.
 4. Serve the offender anyway.
- ASK THE CHURCH COUNCIL (rest of class) to vote on #1-#4, and count the votes on the board.

BEST ANSWER: #3, then #2 if needed. (Of course, these answers are somewhat subjective, but they err on the side of caution, peace, and not making Christians look ridiculous and petty in public by non-Christians.)

SCENARIO 2:

A Christian contractor in your church does sloppy work on your house and refuses to fix it.

- ASK THE VICTIM: (1) “What do you *feel* like doing? And (2) “What should you do as a Christian?”
- TO THE COUNSELOR: “What is your counsel to this victim?”
 1. Sue/demand payment/restitution/escalate.
 2. Confront the offender privately and/or involve the church.
 3. Swallow the wrong/forgive the offender.
 4. Serve the offender anyway.
- ASK THE CHURCH COUNCIL (rest of class) to vote on #1-#4, and count the votes on the board.

BEST ANSWER: #2, not #1.

SCENARIO 3:

A Christian parent owes you months of tuition and keeps promising to pay “next week.”

- ASK THE VICTIM: (1) “What do you *feel* like doing? And (2) “What should you do as a Christian?”
- TO THE COUNSELOR: “What is your counsel to this victim?”
 1. Sue/demand payment/restitution/escalate.
 2. Confront the offender privately and/or involve the church.
 3. Swallow the wrong/forgive the offender.
 4. Serve the offender anyway.
- ASK THE CHURCH COUNCIL (rest of class) to vote on #1-#4, and count the votes on the board.

BEST ANSWER: #3, then #2 if needed.

SCENARIO 4:

A church member spreads false gossip that hurts your reputation.

- ASK THE VICTIM: (1) “What do you *feel* like doing? And (2) “What should you do as a Christian?”
- TO THE COUNSELOR: “What is your counsel to this victim?”
 1. Sue/demand payment/restitution/escalate.
 2. Confront the offender privately and/or involve the church.
 3. Swallow the wrong/forgive the offender.
 4. Serve the offender anyway.
- ASK THE CHURCH COUNCIL (rest of class) to vote on #1-#4, and count the votes on the board.

BEST ANSWER: #2.

SCENARIO 5:

A Christian coworker takes credit for a project you completed.

- ASK THE VICTIM: (1) “What do you *feel* like doing? And (2) “What should you do as a Christian?”
- TO THE COUNSELOR: “What is your counsel to this victim?”
 1. Sue/demand payment/restitution/escalate.
 2. Confront the offender privately and/or involve the church.
 3. Swallow the wrong/forgive the offender.
 4. Serve the offender anyway.
- ASK THE CHURCH COUNCIL (rest of class) to vote on #1-#4, and count the votes on the board.

BEST ANSWER: #3, then #2 if needed.

SCENARIO 6:

A Christian friend breaks your equipment and avoids replacing it.

- ASK THE VICTIM: (1) “What do you *feel* like doing? And (2) “What should you do as a Christian?”
- TO THE COUNSELOR: “What is your counsel to this victim?”
 1. Sue/demand payment/restitution/escalate.
 2. Confront the offender privately and/or involve the church.
 3. Swallow the wrong/forgive the offender.
 4. Serve the offender anyway.
- ASK THE CHURCH COUNCIL (rest of class) to vote on #1-#4, and count the votes on the board.

BEST ANSWER: #3.

SCENARIO 7:

An older Christian in church treats you dismissively and unfairly.

- ASK THE VICTIM: (1) “What do you *feel* like doing? And (2) “What should you do as a Christian?”
- TO THE COUNSELOR: “What is your counsel to this victim?”
 1. Sue/demand payment/restitution/escalate.
 2. Confront the offender privately and/or involve the church.
 3. Swallow the wrong/forgive the offender.
 4. Serve the offender anyway.
- ASK THE CHURCH COUNCIL (rest of class) to vote on #1-#4, and count the votes on the board.

BEST ANSWER: Answers will vary, but arguably #4.

SCENARIO 8:

A wealthy Christian in church ignores a struggling widow in the congregation.

- ASK THE VICTIM: (1) “What do you *feel* like doing? And (2) “What should you do as a Christian?”
- TO THE COUNSELOR: “What is your counsel to this victim?”
 1. Sue/demand payment/restitution/escalate.
 2. Confront the offender privately and/or involve the church.
 3. Swallow the wrong/forgive the offender.
 4. Serve the offender anyway.
- ASK THE CHURCH COUNCIL (rest of class) to vote on #1-#4, and count the votes on the board.

BEST ANSWER: This is something that no one can force upon this person, but he/she needs to be admonished or encouraged to provide for this needy fellowcitizen.