

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Goal

Students apply the Biblical teaching that a ruler's role is to execute judgment and justice by deciding appropriate punishment or restitution in real-world scenarios.

Instructions

1. Read the instructions aloud, or have a volunteer read them.
2. Students complete the questions (give them 8-10 minutes); discuss as a class.

Suggested Answer Key

1. Restitution: payment of the agreed \$1,200
Possible additional penalty for refusal
Principle: Failure to pay for completed work is a matter of justice.
2. Restitution: repair or repay full cost of the fence
Possible minor penalty due to recklessness
Principle: Causing damage—even unintentionally—requires restoration.
3. Debatable, since the homeowner might have a point that it wasn't done well.
Restitution if it *did* actually look fine: payment of the agreed \$40
Principle: Failure to pay for completed work is a matter of justice.
Suggestion: Ask students: "If you were the judge, before you ruled for one side or another, what specific questions could you ask to get to the bottom of this case?"
4. **No clear government action needed!**
The criticism is based on real incidents, not clear falsehood or fraud.
This may be unfair or unkind, but it does not clearly involve theft, violence, or provable injustice requiring legal punishment
Principle: not all harmful or negative situations fall under the role of government

Wrap-Up/Final Direction

Ask students any of these questions you think are appropriate:

- Why was the last case harder to judge?
- What separates legal injustice from personal or workplace conflict?
- Why is it important that government not step into every situation?

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview: You're the Judge, Part 2

You are the judge. For each case: decide what happened (the crime), decide what justice requires (the punishment and/or penalty for wrongdoing), and decide on possible restitution (repaying or restoring what was taken/damaged). Be ready to explain your reasoning!

Case #1 – The Broken Agreement

Two neighbors agree that one will build a fence for \$1,200. The work is completed, but the buyer refuses to pay, saying he “changed his mind” and doesn’t want it anymore.

Your Judgment:



Case #2 – The Careless Damage

A driver recklessly crashes into a neighbor’s fence and destroys it, but claims it was “an accident.”

Your Judgment:



Case #3 – The Unpaid Worker

A teenager agrees to mow a nearby homeowner’s lawn for \$40. After the job is completed properly, the homeowner refuses to pay, saying, “It didn’t look as good as I expected,” even though no prior standard was set.

Your Judgment:

Case #4 – The Workplace Criticism

At work, an employee makes two costly mistakes: first, she submits a report with major errors that delay a project; later, she mishandles an order that causes the company to lose a client.

After these incidents, a coworker angrily tells others that she is unreliable and difficult to work with. As a result, the employee is passed over for future opportunities. She then sues the company and the coworker who criticized her in front of the other employees.

Your Judgment: