

Peer Pressure

I. OPENER

Game

Egg, Chicken, Dinosaur

The goal of this game is to work your way up by beating other players at Rock-Scissors-Paper to the "position" of king or queen. Everyone starts out as an egg. You find another egg and play Rock-Scissors-Paper. The winner "grows" into a chicken who finds another chicken to play against. Whoever wins "grows" into a dinosaur. The loser returns to being an egg. Once a dinosaur you must find another dinosaur to play against. If you lose you step down to a chicken. The next step is becoming a prince or princess, which of course means playing against another prince or princess. If you win you become a King or Queen and stand off to the side. If you lose you return to a dinosaur. The game is played until there is one egg, chicken, dinosaur and prince. All other players will be kings or queens.

The fun in all this?: Eggs waddle on the ground in a little ball, chickens walk and squat while flapping their wings and "clicking", dinosaurs "roar" standing up. Princes/princesses "prance" around holding an imaginary scepter while kings and queens stand off to the side victoriously.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

III. STORY

Robbie is your average thirteen-year-old. His life seems together, except for the fact that he cannot think on his own. He's always motivated to look and act the way his friends look and act. Robbie despises other kids that stand on their own, and are not influenced by the Junior High peer pressure. Robbie however, may be popular, but often he seems he's the byproduct of someone else. He does not promote diversity amongst his Junior High campus, but rather is convulsing others to also submit to the peer pressure.

Study

Peer Pressure is a huge problem with youth. Many cannot stand on their own, so to gain acceptance and to feel good, they mush in with the crowd. There is absolutely nothing wrong with having friends and mingling in with the crowd if done correctly. But if mingling in with the crowd means getting involved in the wrong activities then something must be done to stand strong against peer pressure. When I was a youth I struggled with peer pressure like all of you, however the main reason for this was because I failed to study my bible daily, which ultimately led to myself being tempted with peer

pressure. If I had been more motivated to read my bible like I should have been, then I would have been stronger in my witness.

The bible says:

I Timothy 4:12: Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in **speech**, in **life**, in **love**, in **faith** and in **purity**.

The wise youth will be an example of a true believer so as to earn the respect of his elders. He will be a model in word, or speech, in conversation or behavior, in charity or love, the "Fruit of the Spirit" found in Galatians 5, will be present in faith or faithfulness, and in purity, in motives as well as acts.

Questions

Discussion Starters:

3 Examples of peer pressure- Have students come up and role play the following events

1. Rick and Slick walk home every day from school together and stopped by the mini mart for a Pepsi. One day Slick grabbed some Skittles and put them in his pocket. They snuck out and ran home. Soon Slick tried to convince Rick to grab some candy. Rick gives in. Act out Slick convincing Rick to steal.
2. Gina and Kneisha were best friends. Gina wanted Kneisha to go to a party with her at Slick's house. Slick's parents weren't going to be home and rumor was that there was going to be 5 kegs of beer there. Gina convinces Kneisha to go. Act out Gina convincing Kneisha to go.
3. Malik Muhamad and Bill Whiteman were walking and Bill, not watching where he's going, accidentally bumps into Mike. Malik convinces Bill to kick Mike's butt. Act out whole situation.

Now replay each situation with a positive reversal to peer pressure!

Wrap Up:

Peer pressure is hard. Commercials - just say no- sometimes don't seem realistic.

1. Leave
2. Offer a better idea
3. Change the subject

Resisting peer pressure at times might take some risk. You may risk looking like a wuss. You may risk not hanging out with some friends. But these are risks that are worth it.

Read The Dilemma

The Dilemma

*to laugh is to risk appearing a fool.
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out for another is to risk involvement.
To expose feelings is to risk rejection.
To place your dreams before the crowd is to risk ridicule.
To love is to risk not being loved in return.
To go forward in the face of overwhelming odds is to risk failure.
But risks must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.
The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.
He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he cannot learn, feel, grow or love.
Chained by his certitudes, he is a slave.
He has forfeited his freedom.
Only a person who takes risks is free.
A person who never risks is dead!*

The only way to find freedom is through a relationship with God.

Children, if you faithfully read God's Word, the Holy Bible, and pray you won't succumb to peer pressure, you will set an example in speech, life, love, and purity for others.

WRAP UP & PRAYER