

Appendices

Appendix #2: Case Studies

CASE STUDY #1

Ben met Amanda three months ago at camp. They were both going into seventh grade and had many things in common. They were in many of the same activities. Both played soccer during the school year and listened to the same kind of music. During that week, Ben decided that he really liked being around Amanda. He really, really liked being around her. His friend Pete and some of his other friends noticed how Ben turned red when he was around Amanda, how he acted differently, and how he talked about her all the time:

Pete: "You like Amanda!"

Ben: "No, I don't. No way."

Pete: "Yes, you do. You want to kiss her. Ha! Ha! Ha! You should tell her!"

Ben: "Yeah?"

Pete: "Well, if you don't, I'm going to tell her."

So Ben decided to tell Amanda that he liked her. He didn't know exactly how to proceed, so he asked Pete, who told him that he should just text her—right now! Ben's hands got sweaty.

Ben: "Right now? What do I say?"

Pete: "Just say that you like her and ask her to be your girlfriend."

Ben thought for a second. He knew that there was nothing wrong with the way that he felt about her, but he also knew that she lived in New Jersey and he lived in Kentucky. He also knew that they were twelve years old and that neither was really ready to date—plus something about saying something important in a text seemed weird.

- What do you think?
- What are the problems in this situation?
- Is Pete helpful?
- Why did Ben want to talk to Amanda face-to-face instead of texting her?
- What would be the best way for Ben to deal with his feelings?

CASE STUDY #2

Amber had a serious crush on Dave. He sat next to her in math class and was always really nice to her. Amber talked about him to her friends all the time. One day, even though Amber had asked her not to, her friend Laurie told Dave that Amber liked him. Dave didn't really say anything, but the next day in math class, he gave Amber his phone number and she gave him hers. Amber was really excited when, after school, Dave sent her a text: "I like you too." She showed her friends, and they all squeaked with excitement. She texted Dave back: "Wanna do something this weekend?" He texted back immediately: "Want to come to my house on Saturday? My mom and dad are going out and only my big brother will be home."

- Why not just go out with a bunch of friends?
- Why do you think Dave texted Amber instead of talking to her?
- What should Amber do?
- What other activities might Amber suggest to Dave for the weekend?

CASE STUDY #3

Anna and Troy are in eighth grade and have been "going out" for a month. Her parents don't want Anna to date until she is a junior in high school so her relationship with Troy is a secret. Troy's parents don't pay nearly as much attention. Even though they are unaware that Troy and Anna are dating, they probably wouldn't really mind. Troy has had two other girlfriends, and those relationships lasted about two months each. He doesn't talk to either one anymore. Like Anna, the other two girls go to a different school than Troy. Anna met Troy at the mall one weekend at a mini-golf course where he and his friends tend to hang out on weekends. The mini-golf place is pretty popular. It is dark with black lit (glow-in-the-dark) attractions and loud music. It is also spread out so there are lots of places where you can hang out without any adult intervention. (Anna wasn't supposed to be there in the first place.) One night, Anna tells her parents that she is going to the mall with her friends, when in reality she is secretly meeting Troy to be alone with him. When they get to the mall, Anna's parents ask where her other friends are, and she explains that they must be the first ones there. So Anna's parents reluctantly drop her off with Anna's assurances that her friends are five minutes away. When Anna gets inside the mall Troy is there waiting in front of Old Navy. He and Anna go up to the mini-golf course next to the mall.

- What's wrong with this picture?
- What is so suspect about the mini-golf place?

- List three things that Anna does wrong.
- Why might Anna be in some danger?
- Any problems with Troy's track record? Why or why not?
- If you were friends with Anna, what suggestions might you give her?

CASE STUDY #4

The movie theater is where everyone ends up on Friday night after football season is over. Parents figure that it is safe and contained and that there is a definite activity to keep their kids out of trouble. Joe and his friends go every weekend, whether there is something good to see or not. They have noticed that there is a group of kids in the grade ahead of them that hang out in the back of every movie. They know something strange is going on back there but aren't quite sure what. Joe asked his brother, who is a junior in high school, what happened back there, and his brother just told Joe to stay away. When Joe and his friends walk into a movie one weekend, they see their slightly older peers in the back, some guys and lots of girls. Joe realizes that he knows a few of the girls from school and says "hi" when they signal for him to come sit with them.

- Why is going to sit with them a bad idea?
- Why is Joe likely to sit there anyway?
- What could a good leader in Joe's group of friends do to help look out for everyone?

CASE STUDY #5

A group of girls sits at lunch on a Friday afternoon, Jamie looks across the cafeteria at a table full of guys where Leland and his friends are blowing spit balls at each other. Samantha: "Jamie, what's wrong?" Jamie hesitates, takes a bite of cafeteria peas, and shrugs, "Nothing." Samantha is a good friend and knows that nothing is code for everything. "Is it Leland?" Samantha knows that Jamie really likes him and that they have been talking. Jamie pulls out her cell phone and hands it to Samantha, who follows the text stream:

Leland: I don't think you really like me.

Jamie: What? LOL

Leland: I'm serious.

Jamie: What? Why not? What do you mean?

Leland: You won't prove it. My old girlfriend proved it.

Jamie: What do you mean?

Leland: If you really like me send me a pic of you that you wouldn't show anyone else.

Jamie: What? Are you serious?

Leland: Yes. If you really like me show me.

Jamie:

Samantha asked Jamie, "You didn't send him anything did you?" "Not yet," Jamie replied.

- What should Samantha say next?
- What are five reasons that Jamie should not send Leland a picture?
- Do guys as lost as Leland exist?
- Why would Jamie even consider this? What is she really looking for?

CASE STUDY #6

Mike is hanging out after practice with his teammates. His friend Sam asks him what he is doing later that night, when Mike says, "Going bowling with Bill, Molly, Brittney, and Steve." Sam's immediate response: "Molly is so hot! She's got a good body. Can I come?" Mike is taken aback a bit. Molly has been his friend since kindergarten. "Do you like her?" he asks. Sam: "Not really. She's just hot!"

- What should Mike's next line be?
- What is wrong with Sam's way of talking about Molly?
- Should Molly be flattered or a bit offended?
- Why might she be flattered anyway?
- Why might Mike just agree and stay quiet? Why is that such a problem?

CASE STUDY #7

Jerry's parents get him his first computer. He is really excited, and he already knows how to use it, probably ten times better than his parents. Jerry has all sorts of ideas. He talked his parents into getting Wi-Fi so that he can use it anywhere in the whole house. His parents don't know that much about computers and didn't really give him any warnings or restrictions other than "Make sure you use it. It cost a lot of money!" That won't be a problem for Jerry. Jerry immediately sets his own desktop

picture, opens his own Facebook account, sets up iTunes, starts gaming with his friends, and spends hours every night on the computer.

- What apparent problems will Jerry run into?
- With all of that technology at his fingertips, what might Jerry miss out on?
- Why might it be dangerous for Jerry to have unfiltered Internet access anywhere he wants?
- If you were computer safety experts, what would you tell Jerry's parents?

CASE STUDY #8

Three friends, Nick, Kevin, and Wade, are hanging out on a weekend. A group of girls walks by. Each of the guys notices them and responds differently.

Nick looks down, then tells the other guys to cover their eyes so that they don't sin. Kevin looks up and down at them and tells the other two how good-looking they are. Wade sees them, notices that they are pretty, and makes a comment that the girl in the middle looks a lot like a girl at school. Then he asks the other guys if they want to go play video games.

- Which responses from the three boys present a problem?
- Why is Nick's response often a very good one?
- Which response shows the most mature understanding of the truth of the human body?

CASE STUDY #9

Three girls go out on a Friday night to their parish festival. They all get dressed up like they are going out to a club. They are dressed immodestly and are hoping to be noticed. Walking around at the festival, a group of guys whom they don't know is noticeably staring. The girls notice being noticed, whisper, and giggle to each other. The guys start to call out and make loud, rude comments. The girls go from being flattered to feeling uncomfortable.

- Whose fault is this?
- What could the girls have done to avoid this situation?
- How about the guys (more obvious here)?
- Why did the girls dress that way in the first place?