

Kohlberg Moral Dilemmas

<http://ww3.haverford.edu/psychology/ddavis/p109g/kohlberg.dilemmas.html>

Directions: Read each dilemma and answer the questions to the best of your ability, taking into consideration your morals, values, and upbringing. There are no right or wrong answers. Be ready to discuss with your group and the class.

Dilemma I:

Joe is a fourteen-year-old boy who wanted to go to camp very much. His father promised him he could go if he saved up the money for it himself. So Joe worked hard at his paper route and saved up the forty dollars it cost to go to camp, and a little more besides. But just before camp was going to start, his father changed his mind. Some of his friends decided to go on a special fishing trip, and Joe's father was short of the money it would cost. So he told Joe to give him the money he had saved from the paper route. Joe didn't want to give up going to camp, so he thinks of refusing to give his father the money.

1. Should Joe refuse to give his father the money? Why or why not?

Yes, because he saved up for that money himself and worked hard for it all for him to not go to camp because his father said no.

2. Does the father have the right to tell Joe to give him the money? Why or why not?

Joe's father may have the right but is being crucial towards Joe for not allowing him to go to camp after working hard for that money.

3. Does giving the money have anything to do with being a good son? Why or why not?

No, giving the money does not have anything to do with being a "good son" because at the end of the day money does not matter as long as they have each other, and Joe's dad can go on a fishing trip with his friends with his own hard worked money another time.

4. Is the fact that Joe earned the money himself important in this situation? Why or why not?

Yes, because he dedicated it to himself, set a goal and got to it. Joe accomplished that himself and deserves a reward which would be going to camp.

5. The father promised Joe he could go to

No, it isn't because Joe has other

camp if he earned the money. Is the fact that the father promised the most important thing in the situation? Why or why not?	times to still be able to go to camp and still has the chance to go. It may also be, because it may not seem fair to Joe.
6. In general, why should a promise be kept?	A promise should be kept because in that way you have trust in people and sometimes can lose trust in them as well. It is good to be able to rely on people to tell the truth but if people lie a lot to you, you may lose trust in them.
7. Is it important to keep a promise to someone you don't know well and probably won't see again? Why or why not?	Yes, because that person relied on you and trusted you.
8. What do you think is the most important thing a father should be concerned about in his relationship to his son? Why is that the most important thing?	The father should be concerned with his relationship with his son because trust builds up, and his son might not be able to trust him again after he broke his promise with him to go to camp.
9. In general, what should be the authority of a father over his son? Why?	He should have full authority but respect his child and what he decides to do with his money.
10. What do you think is the most important thing a son should be concerned about in his relationship to his father? Why is that the most important thing?	Their relationship and the trust they have with each other.
11. In thinking back over the dilemma, what would you say is the most responsible thing for Joe to do in this situation? Why?	I think that Joe should try to convince his father again and tell him about how hard he worked to get to this point to be able to go to camp. In a kind way, and maybe his father will reconsider his decisions and allow him to go. While he gets to go fishing with his friends at another time.
Dilemma II:	

Judy was a twelve-year-old girl. Her mother promised her that she could go to a special rock concert coming to their town if she saved up from baby-sitting and lunch money to buy a ticket to the concert. She managed to save up the fifteen dollars the ticket cost plus another five dollars. But then her mother changed her mind and told Judy that she had to spend the money on new clothes for school. Judy was disappointed and decided to go to the concert anyway. She bought a ticket and told her mother that she had only been able to save five dollars. That Saturday she went to the performance and told her mother that she was spending the day with a friend. A week passed without her mother finding out. Judy then told her older sister, Louise, that she had gone to the performance and had lied to her mother about it. Louise wonders whether to tell their mother what Judy did.

1. Should Louise, the older sister, tell their mother that Judy lied about the money or should she keep quiet? Why?	Yes, because you should not lie, and something dangerous could have happened to Judy.
2. In wondering whether to tell, Louise thinks of the fact that Judy is her sister. Should that make a difference in Louise's decision? Why or why not?	No, because no matter what you should always tell the truth because lying can result in serious issues.
3. Does telling have anything to do with being a good daughter? Why or why not?	Yes, because numerous things could have happened to Judy and nobody would have known.
4. Is the fact that Judy earned the money herself important in this situation? Why or why not?	No, because you should always listen to your parents because they're most likely doing what is right for you and trying to keep you safe.
5. The mother promised Judy she could go to the concert if she earned the money. Is the fact that the mother promised the most important thing in the situation? Why or why not?	Yes, because her mother got her hopes up and she was looking forward to it, and now she may not trust her.
6. Why in general should a promise be kept?	A promise means depending on or really putting trust into another person and when you don't keep your promise, the other person loses trust in you.
7. Is it important to keep a promise to someone you don't know well and probably won't see again? Why or why not?	Yes, because that person trusted you and expects you to keep that promise.

8. What do you think is the most important thing a mother should be concerned about in her relationship to her daughter? Why is that the most important thing?	Holding up a good relationship with her daughter, because you should be able to trust each other.
9. In general, what should be the authority of a mother over her daughter? Why?	Full authority, until she is older or an adult.
10. What do you think is the most important thing a daughter should be concerned about in her relationship to her mother? Why is that the most important thing?	A daughter should be most concerned about keeping a good relationship with her mother such as trust, empathy, and respect.
11. In thinking back over the dilemma, what would you say is the most responsible thing for Louise to do in this situation? Why?	Louise shouldn't side with anyone and she should do what's right and tell her mother about Judy sneaking out and tell the mother to try and keep her promises because that's the right thing to do.
Dilemma III	
<p>In Europe, a woman was near death from a special kind of cancer. There was one drug that the doctors thought might save her. It was a form of radium that a druggist in the same town had recently discovered. The drug was expensive to make, but the druggist was charging ten times what the drug cost him to make. He paid \$400 for the radium and charged \$4,000 for a small dose of the drug. The sick woman's husband, Heinz, went to everyone he knew to borrow the money and tried every legal means, but he could only get together about \$2,000, which is half of what it cost. He told the druggist that his wife was dying, and asked him to sell it cheaper or let him pay later. But the druggist said, "No, I discovered the drug and I'm going to make money from it." So, having tried every legal means, Heinz gets desperate and considers breaking into the man's store to steal the drug for his wife.</p>	
1. Should Heinz steal the drug? Why or why not?	Heinz should steal the drug because if he really loves his wife then he should, to save her and would go to jail for her.
2. Is it actually right or wrong for him to steal the drug? Why is it right or wrong?	Legally yes, but if he loves his wife and would dedicate and sacrifice for her in some ways it would be right.
3. Does Heinz have a duty or obligation to steal the drug? Why or why not?	His duty would be to save his wife.
4. If Heinz doesn't love his wife, should he	Yes, either way he should help her

steal the drug for her? Does it make a difference in what Heinz should do whether or not he loves his wife? Why or why not?	from not passing away.
5. Suppose the person dying is not his wife but a stranger. Should Heinz steal the drug for the stranger? Why or why not?	No, because if it is a random person then he probably would not care as much.
6. Suppose it's a pet animal he loves. Should Heinz steal to save the pet animal? Why or why not?	Yes, because if he loves it dearly he should save it from dying.
7. Is it important for people to do everything they can to save another's life? Why or why not?	Yes because that person may have a family or they could mean so much to you that you would do anything for them.
8. It is against the law for Heinz to steal. Does that make it morally wrong? Why or why not?	Yes, because somebody might need it, but also no because this man doubled the price for the money and should not have done that.
9. In general, should people try to do everything they can to obey the law? Why or why not? How does this apply to what Heinz should do?	Yes, genuinely but if something you need is out of your reach and somebody else really needs it for a life or death situation he should steal the drug.
10. In thinking back over the dilemma, what would you say is the most responsible thing for Heinz to do? Why?	I think he should have to save a loved one.
Dilemma IV	
Two young men, brothers, had got into serious trouble. They were secretly leaving town in a hurry and needed money. Karl, the older one, broke into a store and stole a thousand dollars. Bob, the younger one, went to a retired old man who was known to help people in town. He told the man that he was very sick and that he needed a thousand dollars to pay for an operation. Bob asked the old man to lend him the money and promised that he would pay him back when he recovered. Really Bob wasn't sick at all, and he had no intention of paying the man back. Although the old man didn't know Bob very well, he lent him the money. So Bob and Karl skipped town, each with a thousand dollars.	
1. Which is worse, stealing like Karl or cheating like Bob? Why is that worse?	Stealing, because it can cause you to get behind bars.

2. What do you think is the worst thing about cheating the old man? Why is that the worst thing?	Feeling the guilt you would have afterwards and not being able to forget it. Along with knowing the old man helped you, but you won't be able to help the old man.
3. In general, why should a promise be kept?	Because lying and cheating while somebody had trust in you is not the right thing to do at all.
4. Is it important to keep a promise to someone you don't know well or will never see again? Why or why not?	Yes, because the old man relied on him and he never came back.
5. Why shouldn't someone steal from a store?	Because it is wrong, and against the laws.
6. What is the value or importance of property rights?	The importance is that somebody, the person who owns that property will be left hopeless, and will have to feel angry because they paid for what was stolen and they may have put a lot of money towards it.
7. Should people do everything they can to obey the law? Why or why not?	Yes because it is important to follow rules unless you would like to be in jail.
8. Was the old man being irresponsible by lending Bob the money? Why or why not?	Yes, because he did not know bob at all and still gave the money without knowing who he was and if he should have trusted him. He was being reckless and gave the money anyways.

