

Decision-Making in Schoenstatt's Spirit

Have each girl find a partner. After the example of the process demonstrated in the video, assign each pair one of the following case studies (included in the workbook), and invite them to go through the process of observe-compare-reduce to principles-apply in 3-5 min. When time is up, pass out the "Things to Consider" handout (note: not in the workbook!) and give an additional 3 minutes to discuss their situation with the additional points in mind. Then, time permitting, have each team share a summary of their situation and conclusion with the rest of the group (about 10 min). [Note: Do not extend the time of reflection on the case study, in order to capture the importance of thinking quickly albeit clearly when it comes to facing real-life scenarios.]

Father Kentenich's Tips - Helpful Questions to Ponder

OBSERVE

- What is happening?
- What can I gather from the situation?
- How does it make me feel?

COMPARE

- Has this happened to me before?
- Has it happened to anyone else before?
- What have been the consequences?
- Do I discover a similar situation in the life of the Blessed Mother? Of Jesus? Of my favorite saint?
- What did they do?
- Has something similar happened in the history of the world? Of Schoenstatt? Of the Church? Of Christianity?

REDUCE TO PRINCIPLES

- What does the Catholic Church teach me about this?
- What does my covenant demand of me?
- What does my personal ideal demand of me?
- What would be the right thing to do?

APPLY

- How will I put it into practice?

The following are case studies in everyday life situations and in summer camp situations. According to the needs of the group, you may assign the scenarios from one or the other category as desired.

Case Studies - Making Decisions in Daily Life

1. It's Friday afternoon, you are almost done with school and excited because your friend just asked you to head to the park after school for a bike ride. It's a beautiful day and you cannot wait to get outside! Plus, your friend is going to college soon and moving away; you won't have too many more chances to see her before she moves. You put the last of your books away and it hits you: Last night you told your little sister that the two of you would go to get an ice cream today to have an early celebration for her birthday. What do you do?
2. It's Saturday afternoon and you have a few hours to kill. This past week has been pretty intense. You just finished your midterms and are excited for a break. You are home now, but maybe a nice trip into town to hang out with friends at a coffee shop? Or there is that to-do list you have; you could knock off one or two things. Then again, you just got a new book from the library that you have been wanting to read. You don't HAVE to get anything done today...The house is pretty clean and your pressing responsibilities have already been taken care of. Gosh...too many good options. What do you do?
3. Thursday study night with your best friend - what could be better? You are working on your math homework and you have gotten some done already but you're awfully distracted by other things that happened at home last night. Your friend notices and asks what's on your mind. You tell her, "Nothing, it's fine, let's focus on our work." You don't want to get into it now, it's getting late and there is school tomorrow. Plus, you don't know if you are ready or even want to share your thoughts with someone else. You know your friend will understand and will be supportive, but still... Now you are just distracted and can't stop thinking about it. No math homework is getting done now. Your friend is curious as to what's going on and you know that she cares about you. Maybe it would be good to get it off your chest and share it. Maybe that way your thoughts will stop swirling in your mind. Maybe she can help... What do you do?

Thoughts to Consider - Daily Life

Situation 1:

1. You made a prior commitment to your sister - your word should mean something.
2. It's a beautiful day - it would be nice to take advantage.
3. Exercise is good for you...
4. You won't get to see your friend for too much longer...
5. It's an early celebration for your sister's birthday - you could reschedule, you have time.

Situation 2:

1. You have had a busy week, maybe your mind needs a break?
2. Well sure, a break is nice... but I could and maybe should be productive? I could rest tomorrow on Sunday?
3. Seeing your friends sounds nice, but going into town would mean probably spending some money for some food/coffee. Can you afford that? Is it a good decision to spend money this way?
4. I'll get to see friends in the future if I don't see them today.
5. That book and maybe a nice cup of tea sounds nice, and kind of productive but also chill?

Situation 3:

1. You have already gotten some work done, maybe now it's time for a break and a conversation?
2. It's getting late, and the later it is, the more emotional I will be. It might blow my thoughts out of proportion.
3. Why don't you want to share your thoughts, what is making you hesitate? (A personal question to consider in situations like this).
4. My friend and I both have to get a good amount of sleep before school tomorrow and it's getting late.
5. My friend cares about me and I know will hear me out, whatever it is on my mind.
6. What is best for me in this situation? What is best for my friend?

Case Studies - Making Decisions in Summer Camp

1. It's day three of summer camp and time to get ready for the evening activities. Last night you watched the movie Princess Diaries and the girls loved it! The girls had some really nice discussions after the movie. It brought the girls together - they laughed about all the funny moments. They also found hidden themes throughout the movie that tied into our camp theme. They found it amazing how some movies can tie strongly into our faith and Schoenstatt spirituality! Tonight you have a game night planned but you get a request from the girls - they want to watch Princess Diaries 2. Actually, it wasn't one or two girls who came up to you. Over half of the girls have talked about it and wish to watch the second movie. What do you decide?
2. Capture the flag is in full swing! You are on the sideline with one of the other camp leaders. It's nice to see the girls enjoying themselves so much! You have the first aid kit. After all, you are playing in the forest and someone is bound to get a scrape or a cut. One of the girls comes over to you - she is holding her stomach. She says she isn't feeling so well. Your co-leader suggests that she goes with the girl to her room to get her settled to rest. What do you do?
3. It's the end of the camp day. The girls are all in their beds and it's pretty quiet. It's time to meet with the other members of the camp team. At the beginning of camp, you decided as part of your striving that you would bring your contributions to the capital of grace together and offer them together as a team at the end of the day. Along with this, it's nice to debrief at the end of the day. Sometimes as a team you have to prepare and plan things for the next day or you just need someone with whom to share the experiences of the day. It's getting late and you feel exhausted. Yet, you meet with the other members of your team. It's nice. You have a simple night prayer together to offer your contributions to your Ver Sacrum Patris Queen. You finished your debrief. One of the leaders gets hungry, so now you venture to the kitchen for a snack. Snack and hangout time! Super nice, everyone is talking and having a good time. Then, you notice the time. You have been talking for a while but you are feeling pretty awake now. You don't have much of a chance to talk with these lovely ladies during the camp day. You miss this kind of interaction with people your age who are striving for the same things as you. You have a decision to make, hang out a little longer or head to bed?

Thoughts to Consider - Summer Camp

Situation 1:

1. When planning camp, you decided to watch Princess Diaries as it tied strongly into the camp theme. What is the theme of Princess Diaries 2? Could it relate to camp at all?
2. You have a camp schedule that was thoughtfully planned out - is it important to stick to it? There are other situations where you have to adjust the schedule for camp - is this one of those times?
3. When parents signed their daughter up for camp, they consented to letting their daughters watch Princes Diaries. Would they have consented to letting their daughters watch two movies during one summer camp?
4. Is watching two movies during camp the best use of our time? Yes, the girls did bond some over it - could they do the same with the game night?
5. Over half of the girls are wishing to watch the second movie...What about the others?
6. Do we even have access to watch the second movie tonight (do we have the DVD or can we stream it for free)?

Situation 2:

1. This girl needs to rest, maybe needs some food. Someone should accompany her and see what she all needs. Who should go? Do you have a camp mom available to come? Should another girl go along? Or a leader?
2. Camp rule: rule of three. Always go together with two other people when leaving the large group.
3. Someone should stay with the girls - you have the first aid kit and you are playing in the forest - lots of scrapes and bruises!
4. In addition, a leader has to be here to lead the activities. How many leaders should stay? Who should go?
5. What kind of things can you do to help the girl? Food? Rest? Any medicine needed? Do we need to call home and ask parents if they can have medication? Do we need parent's phone numbers? Who do we talk to to get that information?
6. Do I need to tell another leader about this girl's condition? Can another leader help me make the decision what to do?

Situation 3:

1. It's so nice to have these conversations with the ladies. You don't get to see them too often and you are having good and even kind of productive conversations now.
2. Tomorrow is another full day of camp - you will need energy for the day ahead.
3. You don't feel too tired now. A good snack and good conversation helped to wake you up again.
4. Your co-leaders will also need rest for tomorrow. Maybe I need less sleep than others - but maybe we should all begin the journey to our beds?
5. I am a leader. I have certain responsibilities. Can I be a leader among my peers as an example and decide to sleep now?
6. Maybe I can do both? Talk with the girls for 10 more minutes and then decide to sleep? Or, will those 10 minutes turn into an hour...?