

# LINKED: JUSTICE lesson 1

## LET THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME

*Cut the following scenarios apart. Lead groups to discuss what the best punishment for each one should be. Remind them that they should hand down justice from a God-centered perspective. After a few minutes, ask a spokesperson from each group to share that group's scenario and answer.*

1. Mike, an 18-year-old, got behind the wheel of the truck that he was so proud of. On the way to pick up his girlfriend to take her to their high school playoffs basketball game, Mike decided to text his buddy and ask him to save a couple of seats in the student section. Before the message was complete, he ran across the median and struck another vehicle head-on, killing the driver instantly. Texting while driving had just taken another life. How could Godly justice be shown to Mike while keeping in mind that another family is without a loved one?

2. A party to kickoff homecoming week was held at the home of the most popular sophomore at school. There was lots of food, fun, and swimming. To top things off, the parents of the home even provided alcohol for everyone there. After the party, on their way home, a couple of seniors who had had too much to drink were involved in an accident that was clearly their fault. How could Godly justice be shown to the students and to the parents who served the alcohol?

3. A senior girl and a top-notch student with scholarship offerings from multiple colleges found out that she was pregnant two months before graduation. It was a one-time fling for this tenderhearted girl, and she knew that her youth leader would be disappointed when he found out. If it hadn't been for so much morning sickness and being late to school, which was so uncharacteristic of her, her body would have done a good job of not revealing anything. The school's policy did not allow girls who were pregnant or the guy responsible to be involved in graduation ceremonies. Jamie had always been a student the teachers loved. She was looking forward to the speech that she was to give for her class and the award that she would receive for her leadership. The teachers had a decision to make. How could Godly justice be shown to Jamie?

4. Biology class had peaked the interest of a couple of class nerds, Chris and Matt. The week of dissecting had intrigued them to a point that was not meant to be. One Saturday night they found a stray dog and decided to do some science experimenting on their own. When a neighbor heard unusual squealing coming from the garage next door, police were notified. The classmates got to ride in a police car together to the city juvenile detention center to face charges of animal cruelty. How could Godly justice be shown to Chris and Matt?

5. With the prom coming up, best friends Lisa and Mandy wanted to go shopping for accessories to go with their amazing dresses. When they arrived at their favorite store, they headed straight to the costume jewelry. Even though the diamonds weren't real, they were more than the girls had anticipated spending. In an instant, the girls looked at each other with the same idea—they would shoplift. After tucking what they needed inside their large purses and turning to leave, they soon realized that security was after them. They had been caught on camera red-handed. How could Godly justice be shown to Lisa and Mandy?