

WHO'S THE BOSS?

Come up with a response to each of the case studies below, using one of the Scriptures listed. What would you say to this person?

Scriptures:

Proverbs 6:20-22

Romans 13:12-14

Ephesians 4:30-31

1 Peter 2:19-21

1. My mom is always telling me to be more considerate, to do things for others, and so I did. We had this pretzel sale after school for the band trip. And I was putting things away with my friend Ramona and, well, she missed the late bus. This was a problem because her dad has their only car and he works late. So anyway, since I drove to school that day, I decided to drive her home. So my mom calls my cell, wondering where I am. I tell her what I'm doing, and she's all, *That's such a bad neighborhood, I can't believe you're doing that, what if anything happens to the car?* Long story short, I can't use the car anymore, which is so unfair. I did a good deed, and I would do it again. My mom just doesn't get it.

2. I love my folks, but they drive me crazy. Lately, it's like every little thing they say sounds like an insult. They tell me stuff I already know, like I'm stupid. Or they treat me like a baby. Or nag me about doing some chore when I was just about to do it. It makes me madder and madder. I mean, stark raving mad, yes, but also mad at them. And I'm starting to show it. Sometimes by yelling, but usually by complaining, by being sarcastic, by doing things really slow, by copping an attitude. I see myself doing this stuff, and I don't like it. I don't want to be like that at all. It doesn't feel good to be so bitter, but I am, and they kind of forced me into it.

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3. What they don't know won't hurt them, right? My parents have this image of me being the good Christian kid. And I am. Mostly. But one night I was staying over my best friend's house when we decided to crash this big party that some kids at school were having. There were some older kids there too, so there was some beer and some weed. And my friend got me to try it. I know I should have felt guilty, but it was all very exciting. I was like a different person. I don't mind being the Christian kid, but I need a, you know, vacation every so often. So I keep doing stuff like that—sneaking out, telling my folks one thing when I'm really doing another. It's like I'm a secret agent. My parents have no clue.

4. It is so awesome when you feel God leading you. And I am totally convinced that God wants me to be a musical missionary. You see, I play guitar and write songs, and my voice is pretty good. And I hear these songs on Christian radio and I know I could do even better. So I put together this band and we've been working really hard and I just have this *peace* that this is what I'm supposed to do. Unfortunately, my parents don't see it that way. They are bothered by the fact that I'm failing geometry—like I'm really going to need that when I'm singing for Jesus. They're insisting that I go to college, when I think that money would be better spent in a studio recording a CD. I have no doubt that God is guiding me; I just wish he'd guide my parents a little too.