

# BREAKIN' THE RULES

## 1. What do you do to feel rebellious?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to loud music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dye my hair                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surf the Internet—and go where I want | <input type="checkbox"/> Have a few beers                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watch an R or NC-17 rated movie       | <input type="checkbox"/> Get an attitude                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Get into trouble with my friends      | <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke cigarettes or chew tobacco |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have sex with someone                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Talk with God                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turn on the TV                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fight with one of my parents     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yell at my girlfriend or boyfriend    | <input type="checkbox"/> Blow off my schoolwork           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wear something different              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other—                           |

## 2. What do you think? Y (yes), N (no), or M (maybe)?

- \_\_\_ The music I listen to encourages rebellion.
- \_\_\_ Rebellion is a sin.
- \_\_\_ No one has the right to tell anyone else what to do.
- \_\_\_ If my friends rebel, then I do too.
- \_\_\_ Rebellion was a 1970s thing—it doesn't apply today.
- \_\_\_ Christians can rebel in their own ways too.
- \_\_\_ Seeking personal happiness leads to rebellion.
- \_\_\_ There's a lot to rebel against in today's society.
- \_\_\_ Young people do what adults and authorities tell them.
- \_\_\_ Christ was a rebel.
- \_\_\_ Rebellion can sometimes be a good thing.



## 3. On the scale below, place an X where you see yourself.



Livin' on the edge • Rebellious, but not crazy • Occasionally rebellious • Me? Rebellious? No way.

## 4. How would you answer these questions?

In what ways should Christians rebel?

In what ways should Christians not rebel?

## 5. Which of the following stories in the Bible describe godly rebellion and which describes sinful rebellion?

Exodus 32:1-4 (Aaron and the golden calf)

Jonah 3 (Jonah's witness)

Malachi 3:6, 7 (Relationship of God's people to God)

Matthew 2:9-12 (The magi and King Herod)

Acts 4:32-35 (Early church believers)



# LEADER'S GUIDE [breakin' the rules teenage rebellion]

## THIS WEEK

Teenagers are often seen as disobedient, stubborn, uncooperative, delinquent, oppositional, and defiant—all words that can describe some aspect of rebellion. Some people think that rebellion in the adolescent years is normal and expected. That's not true. Most teenagers don't rebel. They buy into the cultural values that exist within their communities. But some teenagers do rebel—and get into some serious trouble. It's every parent's worst nightmare, and for some it's a reality. This TalkSheet provides the opportunity to discuss both the good and the bad aspects of rebellion with your students.

## OPENER

You may want to start by having your kids make a list of all the things that they or their peers do to rebel. What do kids their age do to rebel? You may get a wide variety of answers—some more serious than others. Write all the suggestions down on a whiteboard or poster board. Then ask your group to rate these from 1 to 10 (1 being “not really a big deal” and 10 being “really serious”). Now ask them which one is most common among kids their age. Why do some kids rebel more than others? And why do some kids do worse things than others?

Where do kids learn to rebel? Ask your group to name the influences that encourage rebellion. TV shows? Older brothers or sisters? Celebrities? Professional athletes? Musicians? Movies? Listening to music? What are these influences and why are some stronger than others? How does exposure to the media relate to rebellion (for example, do those who listen to violent music rebel more than others)?

## THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. You've most likely covered this question if you used the suggested opener. Widen the discussion by asking your students when they usually feel the most rebellious and why. What triggers kids to rebel sometimes more than others? Why are some kids more rebellious than others?
2. Take some time to talk about each of these statements. What do your kids think of rebellion? What about Christians who rebel?
3. Some of your kids may not want to tell where they are on this scale. You may want to ask where teenagers in general would put themselves on the scale. What about Christian teenagers?
4. Ask the group if they think they're rebelling in Christian ways—or if they're conforming to the

influences of society. What arguments do they have for either case? Do they think God sees rebellion as a good thing or a bad thing?

5. You may want to talk about each story you're your group. What does God say about rebellion? How does each of the Bible stories relate to rebellion today?

## THE CLOSE

Summarize the discussion by pointing out the two types of rebellion—godly and sinful. Everyone has rebelled against God in his or her own ways. No one is perfect because everyone sins against God. But God provided a way back to him through the sacrifice of his son, Jesus. (Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 2:14-18). Christians—as followers of Christ—are called to rebel against the sinful pattern of the world and to conform to the image of Christ (James 4:4). How do Christians rebel today? What about Christian teenagers today? How can your kids become bold and very strong (Philemon 1:8) in their faith? Where is the line between sinful rebellion and godly rebellion? How would they define the two in their own words?

## MORE

- Where do your kids learn rebellion or see it in the media and in society? Go back to question 1 above and ask your kids to list all the TV shows, movies, advertisements, music songs, and other places where they see, hear, experience, or learn about rebellion. What about godly rebellion? Is that condoned in the same way that sinful rebellion is? Why or why not? Have your kids keep their eyes open during the week for rebellion around them. Where did they see it and what happened?
- You may want to look at some Bible characters who were rebels for God—and spoke up for their faith, followed their beliefs, and served their God. A few examples include Esther (who stood up to her husband—the king), Mary (who was pregnant with Jesus—when she was still a virgin), Paul (a big rebel—who eventually died because of it), and more. Have your kids look through the Bible stories to look at the characters. How did these people rebel against others for God?