

Discriminatory Behavior Handout

No matter the circumstances, we should be ready and willing to share our faith.

Read the scenarios below and then select the answer that best matches what you would do.

While stopped at a traffic stoplight you notice a homeless man on the street corner holding a cardboard sign that reads "Will work for food." What do you do?

- A) Quickly look the other way, turn up the radio and pretend you don't see him.
- B) Roll your eyes and wonder how anyone in their right mind would try to run such a scam.
- C) Pull over and let him know that your church has a benevolence program that may be able to help him.
- D) Roll down your window just far enough to pass him some spare change and tell him that God loves him.

A friend at church introduces you to an Ex-Con that he has been sharing the gospel with for a number of months. The Ex-Con is still pretty rough around the edges. Your friend asks if you would like to join the both of them for pizza after the church service. What do you do?

- A) Politely excuse yourself and move to a different seat.
- B) Inform the Ex-Con that his behavior is offending and you won't be seen hanging out with people like that.
- C) Do your duty and sit with them during the service, but then avoid future contact.
- D) Gladly accept the offer to meet them for lunch and try to make the visitor feel welcome.

Someone heavily involved in witchcraft moves into your neighborhood and is very vocal about his or her religious beliefs. What do you do?

- A) Shout down the person in a militant manner when you enter into spiritual discussions.
- B) Ignore the new neighbor or make small talk about the weather, as you don't want to get into a spiritual debate.
- C) Do your homework on how best to witness to people who practice witchcraft and then make an attempt to share the gospel with your neighbor.
- D) Freak out and worry yourself silly that the witch will cast an evil spell on you once he or she finds out you are a Christian.

A close friend confides in you that he or she is homosexual. What do you do?

- A) Tell your friend that you have a reputation to uphold and would appreciate it if he or she would find someone else to hang out with.
- B) Show your friend unconditional love. Ask your friend if he or she would like to know what God has to say about the subject and then study the scriptures together. Explain that we are all born with a sinful nature and that God is willing to save us from our sins. Pray that God changes your friend's heart.
- C) Consider him or her a freak of nature or a modern day leper, avoiding him or her at all cost.
- D) Tell your former friend that God hates gays and will strike them down with AIDs if he or she doesn't repent.

Group Discussion Questions:

- As you answered the questions did you find that you had any discriminatory thoughts about these types of people?
- Out of the four groups were there certain types of people that you would be more willing to talk with and those that you would quickly dismiss? Why?
- How would your behavior towards these groups of people measure up to how Jesus would treat them?