



# **SPIRIT CHALLENGE**

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## **Popularity and Peer Pressure**

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Version 06/2010



# Popularity and Peer Pressure

## A ctivity

*Commander / Leader:* Collect plastic soda can holders. Challenge the boys to break as many strands as possible. Start with one ring each.

## B iblical Insight

Even at a Christian school, the friends with whom you interact can tempt you to sin. Sometimes the danger of peer pressure is even *greater* at a Christian school because it can be so subtle. After all, these are “Christians,” so you may let down your guard. It is important to realize that some who seem to be suitable Christian friends may actually be a danger to you. A believer must never blindly follow the crowd or accept other people’s values as his own without question, even if the people are Christians.

Proverbs 14:15 gives good instruction on the contrast of how prudent people and simple people respond to peer pressure. The prudent, or wise, will take time to determine the correct path, whereas the simple man will be gullible and believe anything. The simple man will be the man most likely to convey gossip or be misled in following others into non-Christian religious groups. A “simple” man does not mean one who is not intelligent (there are many intelligent people who don’t believe in Jesus), but rather one who fails to listen to the wisdom of God.

## C omposition

What kinds of trouble was David lamenting in Psalm 31:11–13? What contrast does this psalm make between human friendship and friendship with God? Lists the troubles below. Write one sentence detailing one difference between human friendship and friendship with God.

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## E valuation

Read Proverbs 13:20 and ask yourself if you have allowed peer pressure to affect your decision.

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## D iscussion

No matter who our friends are we cannot escape peer pressure. Can peer pressure ever be good? What does this say about the importance of choosing friends wisely? Ecclesiastes 4:10 says, “If one falls down, his friend can help him up.” Although phrased somewhat figuratively, verses 9, 11, and 12 also list benefits of having a good friend. Identify the three benefits mentioned. Then explain what is meant by the statement “A cord of three strands is not quickly broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

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## Lesson 52

A: N/A

C: David had suffered affliction, been persecuted by enemies, and was rejected by friends. This psalm demonstrates that friends can reject us if we don't fit their expectations. But it also points out that when everyone fails us, we can still turn to God.

D: If one falls down the other can help him up. Two get more done working together; two can keep away cold with their body warmth; two can better defend themselves against attack. A cord is several strands woven together for strength. Friendships give us added strength.

"A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps (Proverbs 14:15)." A wise teen will evaluate things for himself and not just go along with the crowd.

Good Christian friends can influence us positively. It is important to choose those who will be a positive rather than a negative influence.

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