

## Morally Good or Morally Suspect?

For each situation, determine whether the action is right, neutral, or wrong; whether the intent is good or not good; and whether the circumstances allow you to decide freely or keep you from deciding freely.

1. You are wondering whether to attend a party at a friend's house this weekend. Everyone in your school knows that no parents will be present.  
**Action:** \_\_\_\_\_ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong  
**Intent:** \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Not good  
**Circumstances:** \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom to decide \_\_\_\_\_ No freedom to decide
2. It is late and you haven't had time to write a paper that is due tomorrow. You are wondering whether to download a paper from the Internet to hand in as your own.  
**Action:** \_\_\_\_\_ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong  
**Intent:** \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Not good  
**Circumstances:** \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom to decide \_\_\_\_\_ No freedom to decide
3. You have been going out exclusively with the same person for two months. Now you are wondering whether it is okay to take a walk with a new kid (of the other sex) at school.  
**Action:** \_\_\_\_\_ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong  
**Intent:** \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Not good  
**Circumstances:** \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom to decide \_\_\_\_\_ No freedom to decide
4. Your parents need you to baby-sit Friday night, but you are supposed to work that night. You are wondering whether you should call work and say you are sick.  
**Action:** \_\_\_\_\_ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong  
**Intent:** \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Not good  
**Circumstances:** \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom to decide \_\_\_\_\_ No freedom to decide
5. A friend has asked you to come with him to pick up a bag of marijuana. You don't want him to think you are not cool, but you also don't want any part in such an activity. You are wondering whether to lie and tell him a really good story about why you can't go.  
**Action:** \_\_\_\_\_ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong  
**Intent:** \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Not good  
**Circumstances:** \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom to decide \_\_\_\_\_ No freedom to decide
6. Your mother is away for a month and the housekeeper is the only adult living in the house with you. You don't want anyone at school to know that, so you are wondering whether to sign your mother's name on a permission slip.  
**Action:** \_\_\_\_\_ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong  
**Intent:** \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Not good  
**Circumstances:** \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom to decide \_\_\_\_\_ No freedom to decide



7. A friend of yours who has been talking about suicide is not answering her cell phone. You are wondering whether to take the family car and drive over to your friend's house, even though you don't have any way right now to contact your parents to ask permission to use the car.

**Action:** \_\_\_\_\_ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong

**Intent:** \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Not good

**Circumstances:** \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom to decide \_\_\_\_\_ No freedom to decide

8. Your friend is having a party Saturday night, and you know that someone whom you are not allowed to hang out with is going to be there. You are wondering whether to tell your friend you won't be coming to the party.

**Action:** \_\_\_\_\_ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong

**Intent:** \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Not good

**Circumstances:** \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom to decide \_\_\_\_\_ No freedom to decide

9. You have discovered that your friend is bingeing and purging a couple of times a day. You are wondering whether to tell a counselor, even though you have promised your friend to keep that information secret.

**Action:** \_\_\_\_\_ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong

**Intent:** \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Not good

**Circumstances:** \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom to decide \_\_\_\_\_ No freedom to decide

10. The manager of a local market heard a rumor that your father is passing bad checks, and posted a note that tells cashiers not to accept any checks from him. You are wondering whether to take the note.

**Action:** \_\_\_\_\_ Right \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong

**Intent:** \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Not good

**Circumstances:** \_\_\_\_\_ Freedom to decide \_\_\_\_\_ No freedom to decide

(This handout is adapted from *Catechetical Sessions on Christian Morality*, by Cheryl Tholcke, in the Total Catechesis series [Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 2004]. Copyright © 2004 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

