

Under Pressure Role Plays Put Yourself into the Story

Instructions: Photocopy this page and cut out the cards. Read one scenario at a time and choose a child to answer the question as if in the situation. If time permits, you might allow another child to respond.

Under Pressure Story #2:

The Case of the Broken Picture

Joey and Peter were throwing a ball in the house. As Joey tried to grab the ball from Peter, his arm accidentally hit the wall and a picture fell to the ground, breaking the glass in the frame.

Mom was due home at any moment and she had often told the boys not to play ball in the house. Peter said, "We better get our story straight about what happened." They didn't want to get into trouble, so they tried to figure out a way to make the situation not look so bad. They hung the picture back up, cleaned up the glass, and went into the backyard to discuss it. Just then, they heard Mom say, "Hi boys, I'm home."

Imagine you are Joey or Peter. What would you do?

Why is it important for them to tell Mom about the broken glass before she finds out for herself?

Under Pressure Story #1:

The Case of the Found Bracelet

Amy walked into her classroom at school and saw a bracelet on the floor. It was just like the one she had wanted to buy, but didn't have enough money. Amy knew that the bracelet must belong to someone, but she wanted it badly, so she picked it up and put it on. Later that day a friend of hers admired her 'new' bracelet, and Amy just said "thanks." That evening at dinner Mom asked Amy where the new bracelet came from. Amy wanted to keep the bracelet so much that she thought about telling Mom that a friend gave it to her.

If you were Amy, how would you respond? What should Amy do about the bracelet?

Under Pressure Story #3:

The Case of the Not So Exciting Summer

Mark was just getting to know some new friends in school. They were all talking about the fun things they did over the summer. One went to the Grand Canyon. Another went to Disney World, and another boy went camping with his Boy Scout troop. As Mark listened, he wished he would have gone somewhere this summer or had done something exciting, but he really didn't. His neighbor was just telling him yesterday about the fun he had at their beach house. Mark thought that maybe he could make up a story about going to the beach, but realized that would be lying. Mark doesn't want to look like a boring guy. He really doesn't have anything to say that's good about his summer.

If you were Mark, how would you handle this experience without lying?

Situation #1:

The Case of Too Much Change

(The opportunity to buy the video game you've been saving for)

Situation #2:

The Case of the Difficult Test

(An easy way to get the right answers)

Situation #3:

The Case of the Weeds in the Flowerbed

(The fast way to work and get on to playing)

Situation #1 Description

The Case of Too Much Change

Joey went to the store to buy some gum. He gave the cashier a \$10 bill but the cashier thought it was a \$20 bill and gave Joey an extra \$10 change. Joey walked away from the counter and looked at the change and realized that he had too much. Joey knows that the extra \$10 would be just what he needs to buy that new video game from the video game store next door. Joey headed for the door but then stopped. He had to make an important decision. What should he do?

Situation #2 Description

The Case of the Difficult Test

Mindy studied for the test but when she got to class, she realized that the questions weren't the same things that she had studied. She didn't know the answers. The teacher had stepped out of the room, and as she looked up she saw that she could easily see the answers on the paper of the boy next to her. He was smart and was always getting A's in everything. Now she knew that she could get the right answers and get a good grade on the test too. She paused for a moment to think. She had an important decision to make.

Situation #3 Description

The Case of the Weeds in the Flowerbed

Josh had a job to do. Dad had asked him to weed the flowerbed in front of the house. Although the flowerbed wasn't too big, there were a lot of weeds that needed to be removed. Dad had explained to Josh that the key to getting the weeds out for good was to pull out the roots. That takes a little more time but it removes them for good. Otherwise, if you just pull off the tops then they grow back. Josh is in a hurry to go play ball with his friends. Josh could just pull the tops off the weeds. No one would notice. The flowerbed would look clean and he could get to the ball game faster. Josh had an important choice to make.

Situation #1 – Choice #1 – Glue on envelope #1

Keep the Money

Situation #1 – Choice #2 – Glue on envelope #2

**Return the Money
to the Cashier**

Situation #2 – Choice #1 – Glue on envelope #3

**Copy the Answers
from the Boy**

Situation #2 – Choice #2 – Glue on envelope #4

**Do the Best She
Can Without
Cheating**

Situation #3 – Choice #1 – Glue on envelope #5

Pull the Tops Off the Weeds

Situation #3 – Choice #2 – Glue on envelope #6

Dig Out the Roots

Consequence Card for Envelope #1

Short Term Consequence

“Wow! This is great,” Joey thought. “This is just the amount I need to buy the video game that I saw on sale this week. The cashier’s mistake is his problem and my gain.” Joey quickly goes next door to the video store and buys the game and takes it home to try it out.

Consequence Card for Envelope #1

Long Term Consequence

Joey knows the money really isn’t his. He starts to feel guilty that he kept the money. Joey wonders what will happen to the cashier when his boss finds out that he comes up short at the end of the day. Every time Joey plays the video game he feels bad because he knows he got it in a way that wasn’t right.

Consequence Card for Envelope #2

Short Term Consequence

Honesty Wins: When given the extra change, Joey turns around and points it out to the cashier and gives him the money back. As he leaves the store Joey thinks about how he might have used that \$10 to get the video game on sale this week.

Consequence Card for Envelope #2

Long Term Consequence

Joey feels good because he did the right thing. Although Joey will have to wait to get the video game, he knows that being honest is worth it because he has a clear conscience.

Consequence Card for Envelope #3

Short Term Consequence

“This will be easy,” Mindy thinks. “I won’t get caught because the teacher has left the room. I can easily see the answers. Now I’ll be able to get a good grade on this test.” Mindy goes ahead and writes down the answers from the boy’s paper.

Consequence Card for Envelope #3

Long Term Consequence

Mindy turns in her test, confident that she’ll get a good grade, but then the fears start up. Her thoughts race, “I wonder if the boy had the right answers? I wonder if we were taking different tests? I wonder if the teacher might have been watching through the window? I wonder if anyone saw me cheating?” Fears continue on and they start to affect the way Mindy interacts with the teacher. The teacher calls Mindy’s name and she immediately thinks she’s caught. Mindy realizes that cheating wasn’t worth it.

Consequence Card for Envelope #4

Short Term Consequence

Honesty Wins: Mindy keeps her eyes on her own paper, does the best she can, and turns in her test. The teacher grades it and, it's true, Mindy got a low grade. She feels bad for the low grade but determines to do better next time.

Consequence Card for Envelope #4

Long Term Consequence

Mindy knows she did the right thing. Although she got a bad grade, she knows that she was being honest and has peace of mind. Having a clear conscience gives Mindy freedom to not live in fear.

Consequence Card for Envelope #5

Short Term Consequence

Dad won't be able to tell whether the roots are gone or not. Josh just pulls off the tops and it all looks cleaned out. It doesn't take long for him to rip off all the tops. That job didn't take much work and Josh gets to the ball game just in time.

Consequence Card for Envelope #5

Long Term Consequence

Josh knows that he didn't do a good job like his dad had expected. Those weeds will grow up in no time. It will become obvious that Josh didn't do a good job. Josh has been wanting to prove to his parents that he is becoming more responsible. This will cause them to question that. Even though Josh gets to play ball, he doesn't enjoy it as much because he feels guilty for not doing a thorough job.

Consequence Card for Envelope #6

Short Term Consequence

Honesty Wins: Josh did the hard work of digging out the roots, completing the job just the way Dad taught him to. Josh can see the boys playing ball and is eager to get to the game, but he knows that doing this job is important so Josh hangs in there and eventually gets to the game late.

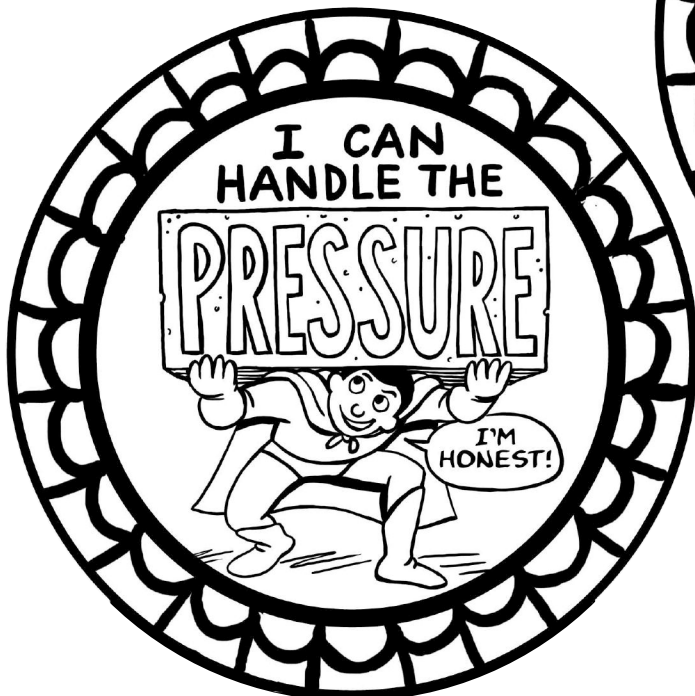
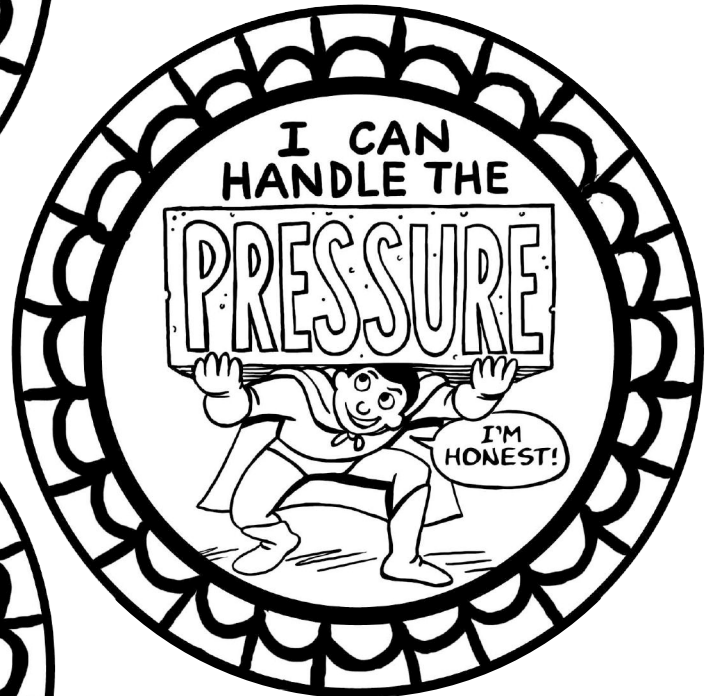
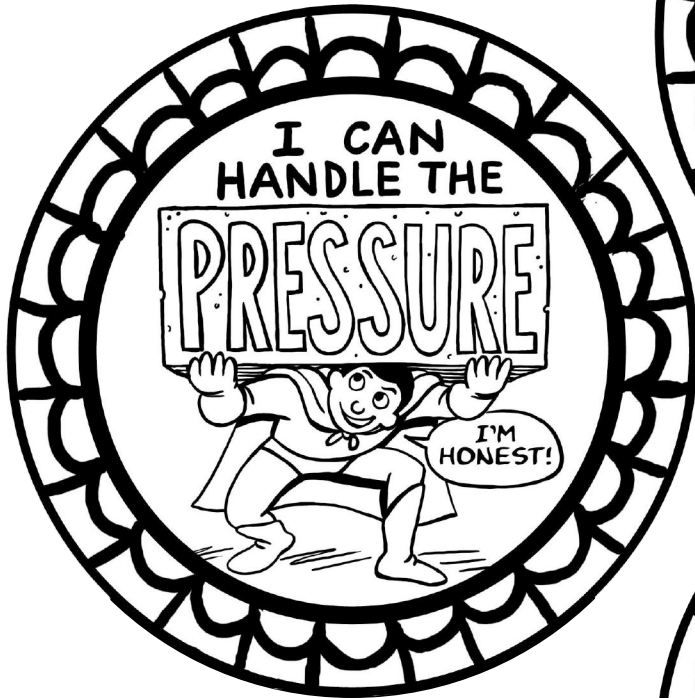
Consequence Card for Envelope #6

Long Term Consequence

The job is done. The weeds and their roots are out, and Josh feels good. Every time he walks by that flowerbed he feels a sense of accomplishment that he made that flowerbed look nice. Josh still gets to play part of the game, and he feels good inside that he did the right thing.

Handling the Pressure ★ Session 6

Craft Honesty Badge



**I CAN
HANDLE THE**

PRESSURE



**Do not lie
to each other,
since you have
taken off your
old self with its
practices.**

Colossians 3:9

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