

You Be The Judge · Tom
Monopoly
Jewish
Business
Ethics

You be the Businessman

Counselors should try to act out the following scenarios. At the end ask the kids what they think should happen (try and get 2 or 3 answers) and then tell them what the Rabbi's felt about that exact scenario.

1. A man walks into a card shop to buy a baseball card. The person selling cards is new to the business and sells him a Babe Ruth card for 10 dollars. Another customer sees what he has done and informs him what the card is worth. He confronts the man who bought it and demands to be paid in full for the card. What should they do?

A: In Jewish law there is something called a sale made in error. It is based off of a story when during a famine families needed to sell their houses to buy food. Then after the famine ended Rabbi Nachman declared they could buy their houses back because it returns to their original owners. The people sold their homes because they were desperate for money because food was very expensive due to the famine. However they did not know that a ship was in the harbor which was full of food. This would make food cheaper and they would not need to sell their houses. Because they sold their houses without all the information it was a sale made in error. The law states that a person whose sells something because they need money but after the sale learns the money is not needed can take the sale back (Ketuvot 97a)

2. A boy is walking in the street and finds 100 dollars. His mother tells him that she needs the money to pay the rent and that it's her because she pays the bills. The sister then says someone lost it. We should give it to charity because we cannot find the owner. Who gets the money?

A: The answer is in 3 parts. The first question is can anyone keep the money or should they try to return it? Maybe they should give it to charity? The Mishnah says that if one finds money in a purse you are obligated to find its owner but if you find money on the ground then you can keep it. There is something in Judaism called Hefker which means abandoned. When someone loses money without identification they give up and you do not need to find the owner. The 100\$ bill can be kept and you don't need to look for the owner or give it to charity. The second question is does he have to give his money to his mother? The Gemara explains that while one is obligated to give the money to one's parents if you are supported by them if the child is too young to understand the reasoning he does not have to. The reason for that is if he does not get why he has to then it will teach him a bigger person can steal. To conclude they can keep the 100 dollars, he should give the money to his mother and she should not force him to do it if he does not get why.

3. A girl goes to the grocery store to buy some groceries. She buys what she thinks is \$6.25 worth of groceries and pays with 10 dollars. She gets what she thinks is \$3.75 in change. Outside she realizes that the cashier accidentally gave her a 10 dollar bill two ones and a quarter. It was the cashier's mistake. Should she keep the money or is it stealing? What would you do

them back if the woman can identify something about the coins.

6. A boy steals a girl's videogame. Later she notices it in his desk. She tells her friend and her friend tells her she should steal it back. She says that she should just tell the teacher. Another friend standing nearby says that it is wrong to tell the teacher. They should just tell him they know and that he has to give it back. What do you think she should do?

A: In the torah it says you shall not steal in the 10 commandments. Then later it says the same thing in Leviticus. The rabbis explain that this is repeated because it is telling you not to steal from a thief even what they have stolen from you. It is meant to prevent society from becoming a mess with people stealing and stealing back. A little bit further on it says in Leviticus you must not hate your brother or sister in your heart. You must certainly rebuke your neighbor. This verse says that you must not hate your neighbor. You must go to him and gently rebuke him because of what he has done. If that does not work then you should go to the court or in this scenario the teacher.

7. A girl is working at a movie theater. She finds a gold purse with \$280 dollars in it. She takes it to the lost and found and leaves it there for a month. After a month she goes and asks if anyone has claimed it. The owner says no and that she is welcome to the purse but he is keeping the money because she found it while she was working for him. Who gets the purse and the \$280?

A: We learn that if one finds money then you can keep it. If you find a purse then you must try to return it. If you cannot find them you can keep it. You do not need to give it to charity. It says in regard to finding things if you find something in front of the counter you can keep it but if you find it behind the counter then the owner keeps it. The rabbis also say in Baba metzia that if someone finds something while working for another person then they can keep it unless finding things is part of their job. The bottom line is the girl can keep both the money and the purse.

8. At a garage sale a girl and her mother find a piece of porcelain by a famous artist worth \$100. They ask the person in charge how much they are charging for it. The person tells them 75 cents and they buy it for that price. After they buy it the mother says it is worth 100\$. The person in charge asks for the piece back but the mother says I paid what you asked for it. What is fair in this situation?

A: We learn three things from Maimonides the laws of Acquisition. Both a buyer and seller must be honest in transactions, neither may cheat the other. Making more than a 20 percent profit is considered dishonest and the laws of fraud say the deal should be cancelled or the difference of up to 20 % should be repaid. The laws of unfair only apply to necessities like food and clothing. When it comes to a luxury like the porcelain the buyer and seller can buy and pay however much they want. The vase is a luxury so the deal is legal even if it is not fair.

9. A girl finds a cat while out walking. Her parents tell her that she