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Lesson 13 / November 29, 2026

Which Way to Go?

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as STEP 1

Lesson 13
Focus:
Beware of your relationships that can turn you away from God.

Lesson 13
Bible Basis:
I Kings 11—12

Lesson 13
Memory Verse:
Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.
—1 Samuel 12:24

Students will be reminded that unwise choices in friendships can influence them in negative ways.

Materials:
- Internet access

Think about the last time you considered doing something you knew was a bad idea . . . and then did it anyway. Don't worry, you don't have to say what you did. Just think about it.

➢ **What motivated you to make your bad decision? What part did peer pressure from another person—maybe even one of your friends—play in your bad decision?** (Answers will vary, but most students will acknowledge that peer pressure had a lot to do with their bad decision. Be prepared to share about a bad decision/peer pressure experience when you were young.)

Let's take a look at an example of a teen who made a bad decision at school.
Play the following video for your students [0:34]:
Student faces charges for dangerous TikTok challenge after incident forces NJ school to be evacuated
https://6abc.com/post/student-faces-charges-dangerous-tiktok-challenge-incident-forces-belleville-school-evacuated/16391783/

We can't know exactly what made this teen make this bad decision. Perhaps the student wanted to create a funny TikTok video following the viral challenge. Maybe the teen wanted to appear funny or daring in front of classmates.

People make bad decisions for all sorts of reasons. Maybe we don't any know better. Maybe we're in a bad mood. But often, we do dumb things because of what our friends will think. Maybe you think you're too smart for that, but chances are, you probably made a crummy decision because of peer pressure in the past week. *All* of us have—even supposedly "mature" adults!

➢ **Why do you think people give in to peer pressure?** (Essentially, we want others to like us.)

There's nothing wrong with wanting people to like us. However, winning cool points is never worth betraying your values. The Bible warns us to be careful when we choose our friends. It's better to avoid temptation in the first place by choosing your friends wisely.

Ask King Solomon. He began as a ruler who was committed to following God. At the end of his life, however, other people led him to make some really lousy decisions. Let's read about it in the book of 1 Kings.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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Which Way to Go?

for use as STEP 4

Lesson 13
Focus:
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Lesson 13
Bible Basis:
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Materials:
- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring supplies with them to class.

Peer pressure often has a negative connotation but imagine that sometimes peer pressure could be used for good!

➢ **Have you heard of positive peer pressure? In your own words, what does it mean?** (It's using your influence with your friends for good instead of evil.)

➢ **What are some things you could do to use positive peer pressure?** (Accept all reasonable answers. If students aren't sure what to say, suggest examples: buying snacks for a homeless person or including a classmate who feels left out.)

All of us have the ability to influence other people. However, we have to decide whether to use our powers for good or evil. Maybe I can convince my friend to shoplift with me, but that's a pretty crummy way to use my influence. Couldn't I convince him to help someone carry a heavy package instead? Building wise friendships doesn't always mean finding new friends. Sometimes, you just need to be wiser with the friendships you already have!

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). **I want you to think of a friend or family member—someone you know well and who will listen to what you say. Write his or her name at the top of your card.**

Now, think of something that the two of you can do together to help others. Don't make it a huge project, like feeding all the hungry people in the world. It should be "bite-sized," like helping a teacher after school or sending encouraging texts to a classmate who's experiencing a hard time. Give your students a chance to think and write. Then ask for a few volunteers to share by asking this question:

➢ **What are some things you could do with your friend to help someone out?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Students' responses should be similar to the examples in the paragraph above—in other words, keep them "bite-sized.")

Those are good ideas! All of them would be great ways to positively influence a friend or friends to help others. This week, see if you can put your plan into practice. Use *positive* peer pressure to do something cool with your friend.

Remember, it's important to be aware that you can be influenced—for bad or for good. Keep an eye out for ways your friends and acquaintances might try to influence you in a negative way. Stand strong and use your influence for good—that's our goal this week!

Close in prayer.

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