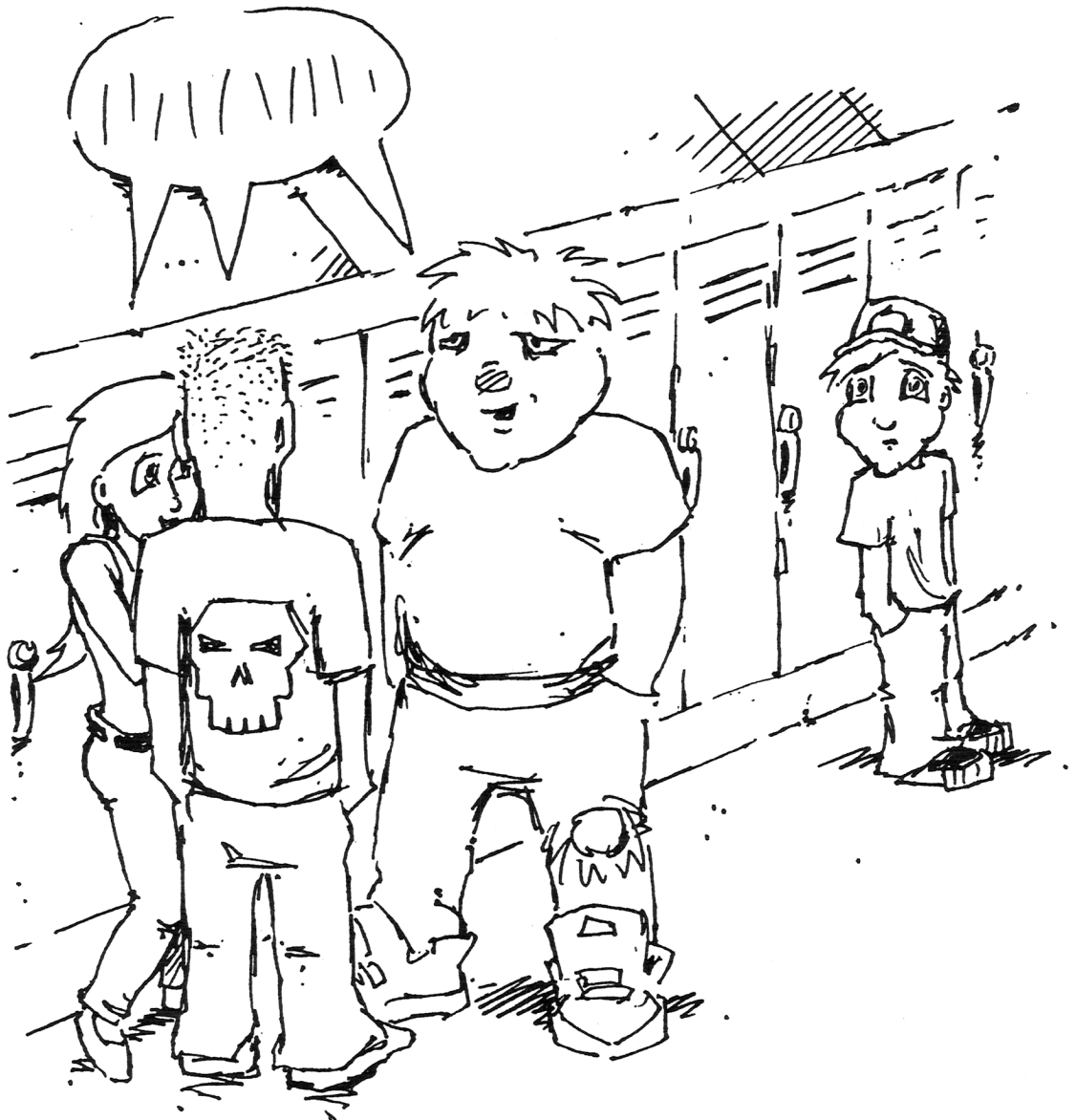


# HEAR, MY SON, ABOUT EVIL COMPANIONS



*"MY SON, IF SINNERS ENTICE THEE, CONSENT THOU NOT."*

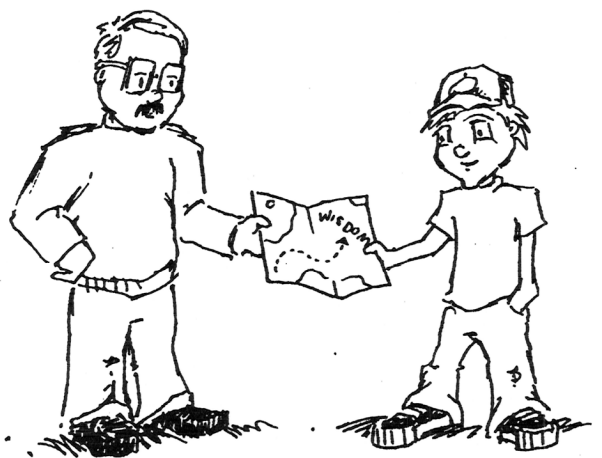
Lesson #4

**"HEAR, MY SON, ABOUT EVIL COMPANIONS"**

*PROVERBS 1:10 "MY SON, IF SINNERS ENTICE THEE, CONSENT THOU NOT."*

Throughout the Old Testament we find examples in the historical books, the poetical books, and the prophets of a topic which continues strong in the New Testament. The topic of "evil companions" is found as one of the main areas of instruction, counsel and warning. It is the first major topic upon which the father instructs his son at length. In Proverbs 1:8 the father instructs his son to "hear." In Lesson 3 we learned in STEP #3 that "hear" means: \_\_\_\_\_

It is the father's desire at this point that his son would "hear" (obey) him concerning how to deal with "evil companions." The father's will for his son is that he would listen to "him" and not to the enticing words of these "sinners."



**I. SON, UNDERSTAND WHO THE SINNERS ARE**

In those times and throughout much of Scripture there were bands of highway robbers. The original word for "sinners" indicates that these were wicked, vicious, extremely evil men to whom sin, gross sin, had become natural habits with little conscience or concern for their victims.

## II. SON, UNDERSTAND THE SINNER'S ENTICEMENT.

A. Look up the meaning of the word "entice" in the dictionary and write it out.

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The word "entice" comes from the same root word meaning "the simple." Perhaps the simple-minded, the uninstructed, the unwise young man could be persuaded or fooled into buying their offer. However, the wise son would say "NO WAY!" These "sinners" were so calloused that they were convinced within themselves that their way of life was the way to live. They were successful in enlisting many. You may say, "I could never be involved in this. This doesn't apply to me." Don't be too sure until you take a closer look at the various enticements!

B. The enticements or lures of today:

What would be the sort of lure that a sinner could use to draw you to his cause, to become one of his group?

1. THE LURE OF \_\_\_\_\_ (1:11,12,16)

These sinners would describe their activities in the most exciting of terms.

- \* Shedding of blood
- \* Taking advantage of the innocent
- \* Killing their victims
- \* Putting their dead victims in graves
- \* Putting others into pits alive (cf. Gen. 37:20ff)

Today's sequel to this can be seen in every newspaper, news magazine, or T.V. news report. This mentality can be seen regularly in many T.V. programs.

Murder, even mass murder, "for excitement" can be seen in our society today. So can related killings, serial murders, abuse of all types touching epidemic proportions. On a regular basis advantage is taken of innocent people. A well known quote that describes this is:

**"Come to Where the Action Is"**



## 2. THE LURE OF \_\_\_\_\_ (1:13,14,19)

Money has always been a lure to the discontented in this world. *"If only I could have that 'thing.' If only I could make more money, then I would be happy and satisfied."*

What does I Timothy 6:10 teach?

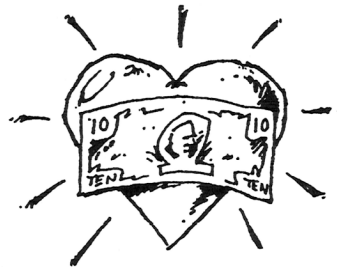
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The "sinner" would entice the son by promises of:

- \* All precious substances - all valuable things (1:13).
- \* Houses filled with what was stolen (1:13).
- \* A common lot, equal share of the money (1:14).
- \* A good return for the effort (1:19).

Love of the world and the things that are in the world (I John 2:15), is the same lure in different words. This enticement has motivated many to cast a common lot with the "sinners." Today we might call the equivalent of this thievery, robbery, gambling, playing the lottery, tax evasion, cheating your employer of time, misuse of credit cards, and on and on. It is nothing more than the mentality that lures people today.

### Get Rich Quick



Television, radio, newspaper advertisements and the daily barrage of circulars in the mail are enticements. Many of these create a desire to have some things that are "wants," not needs, things that only become wants after reading the enticing words. Credit card companies entice parents to get "one more" credit card so they can get what they want and not have to pay until later.

## 3. THE LURE OF \_\_\_\_\_ (1:14)

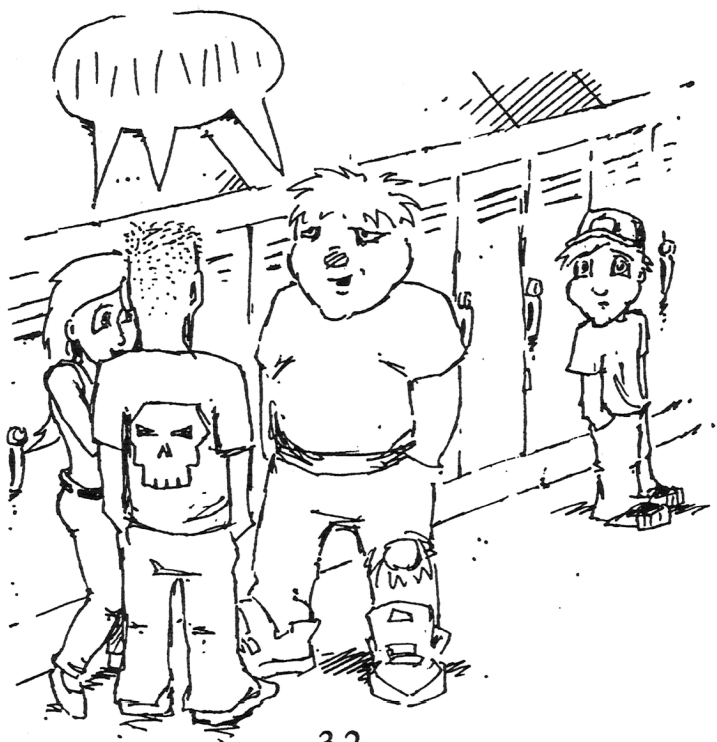
A desire for **companionship** and being accepted by the crowd (peer pressure) is one of the greatest lures for some teens. The lure of peer companionship was a powerful motivator in Bible days just as it is in our world today. Too often a son will reject the relationship he has with his parents to embrace a relationship with foolish friends, only to find that the latter ends in heartache both for the son and for his parents.

New Testament instructions are:

I Corinthians 15:33 \_\_\_\_\_

II Corinthians 6:14 \_\_\_\_\_

You can see that Paul's instruction and counsel to the believers at Corinth was similar to the father's instructions to the son. Today's motto's for the lure of companionships might be recognized by the idea of "Be one of the crowd." Many of the commercials on TV try to use this lure to sell their products. Can you think of any?



### III. SON, UNDERSTAND THE NECESSARY RESPONSE.

The father's response is clear. He doesn't mince words with his son. They can hardly be misunderstood in these three statements:

1. "*CONSENT THOU NOT*" - 1:10 Just say "NO!"
2. "*WALK NOT THOU*" - 1:15 Don't go with them.
3. "*REFRAIN THY FOOT*" - 1:15 Control yourself and stay away.

The son is to stay clear of these sinners. But the father doesn't just stop there. He gives the reason for the response.

### IV. SON, UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR THE RESPONSE.

The reasons given are twofold:

1. It's wrong, just plain wrong. It's only for the "fools." (1:15-16)
2. They become victims of their own evil ways. "They reap what they sow." (1:18)

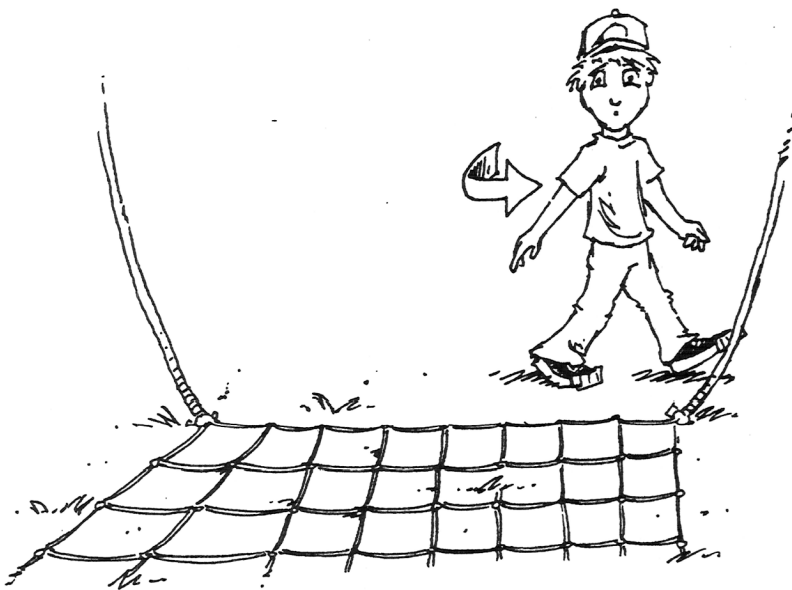
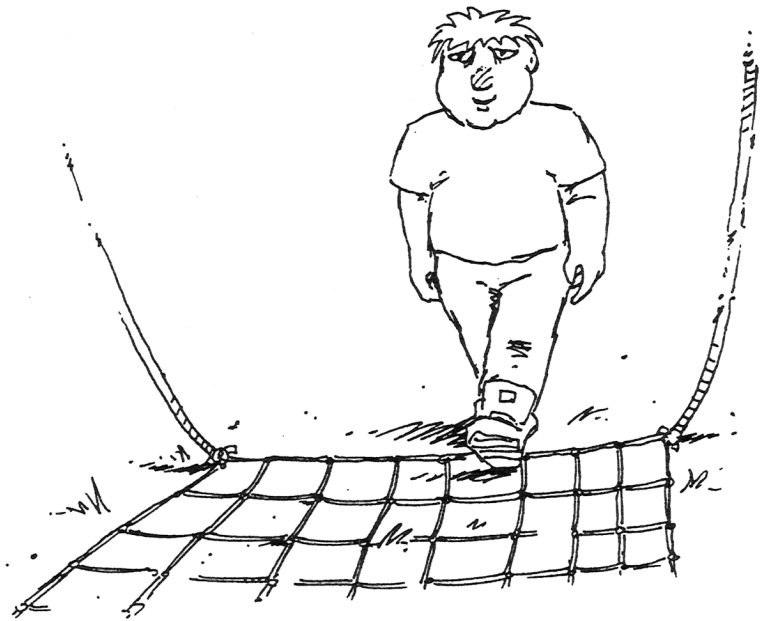


## V. SON, UNDERSTAND THE TWO POSSIBLE MEANINGS OF PROVERBS

### **"SURELY IN VAIN THE NET IS SPREAD IN THE SIGHT OF ANY BIRD" (1:17)**

This verse must be understood by identifying who the bird is in the proverb. It could represent the "sinner" or the son who has already been instructed and warned.

A. If it represents the "sinner" it means that in his desire for excitement, money, companionship, and this way of life, he will proceed even though a net to trap him is in plain view. He has seen others get trapped, yet somehow he thinks he is not going to get caught.



B. If the bird represents the "son" who has been instructed by his father, the proverb means that to see the net (the end of the sinners reaping what they have sown) is all the son needs to be able to say "NO!" to the sinner's appeal. A wise son who sees the trap will never get caught in it.



## FATHER-SON INTERACTION ACTIVITY

WORK TOGETHER WITH YOUR DAD TO LIST THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EVIL COMPANIONS FOUND IN THE VERSES LISTED.

	FRIEND	
	#1	#2
2:12	_____	_____
2:14	_____	_____
4:16	_____	_____
4:17	_____	_____
6:13	_____	_____
6:14	_____	_____
12:10	_____	_____
12:13	_____	_____
12:21	_____	_____
14:17	_____	_____
15:28	_____	_____
17:11	_____	_____
17:23	_____	_____
20:19	_____	_____
21:10	_____	_____
24:2	_____	_____
28:1	_____	_____
28:4	_____	_____

EVALUATE TWO PEOPLE YOU MIGHT CONSIDER AS FRIENDS IN THE COLUMNS TO THE RIGHT. CHECK TO SEE HOW THEY COMPARE TO THE EVIL COMPANIONS.

Y = YES N = NO

## FATHER-SON INTERACTION ACTIVITY

Look through a newspaper, magazine, or other printed material together for examples of types of enticements of the "sinners" (Excitement, Money, Companionship). Find examples of all three. Advertisements use these "enticements," but so may magazine or newspaper articles, stories or books.

## FATHER-SON INTERACTION ACTIVITY

MEMORIZE PROVERBS 1:10. QUIZ EACH OTHER ON IT. CHECK HERE WHEN COMPLETED.

FATHER \_\_\_\_\_

SON \_\_\_\_\_

