



What happens next? Alcohol and relationships 2

Session Aims:

1. To provide an opportunity for participants to consider situations involving alcohol and relationships, and to gain skills practice in framing responses.
2. To enable young Friends to share how they apply their Quaker values to such situations, and by so doing to deepen understandings.

For this session you will need:

1. Several copies of one or more scenarios (sufficient for easy sharing within each group)

Session

1. Ask the large group to split into groups of 6 or fewer – for a small group working in partners would be fine. You may choose to give each group a different scenario and ask them to compare notes and perspectives at the end, or the same scenario to every group, to enable a more in-depth comparison.
2. Ask one participant in each group to read out the scenario to the group, and the accompanying questions. Allow about 20-30 minutes, and ask each group to record their discussion briefly for feedback. Depending on time the groups could consider another scenario.
3. These scenarios could also be done as a role play. Choose 2 people in each of the small group to take the roles of the people in the situation and play out what might happen next. Other people in the group could shout 'freeze!' and take over or offer suggestions/ alternatives.

Handout - Scenario Sheet (1 Of 2)

Scenario 1

Jo is out with Emma, who has drunk more alcohol than her. They've been talking to two guys they already knew slightly, who invite them back to where one of them lives. Emma wants to go. Jo doesn't, but Emma's had quite a lot to drink, and Jo is worried she'll go with the guys alone if she says no - and perhaps get involved in sex she might regret.

- Is Jo right to be concerned?
- What behaviour/attitudes would you like to see from the guys?
- Could they gauge the influence of alcohol on Emma's judgement, and if so, how?
- What are the values you bring to considering this situation?
- How would you deal with this situation practically, if you were Jo or one of the guys?

Scenario 2

You've been going out with someone you really care about for six months. You get on great most of the time, but when you go out together they are always keen to go for a drink, even if it isn't a part of the evening. If alcohol is available, e.g. at a party, they can drink an awful lot. When they know alcohol will be involved they tend to be more cheerful, and when they drink they are much more affectionate and sexual. When you comment, they say getting drunk occasionally is pretty normal.

- Would you be concerned?
- Did you make any assumptions about the genders of the people? If so, why? Would gender make any difference to your judgements about the situation?
- What would you do in this situation, working from your own gender and sexuality?
- What Quaker values do you feel are relevant to this situation?

Handout - Scenario Sheet (2 Of 2)

Scenario 3

You've just started going out with someone you've liked for absolutely ages. You start going out together with their friends, who drink alcohol, though not usually excessively. You don't drink at all because you've never particularly wanted to. You go to a party with the group, and your new boy/girlfriend suggests you have a low alcohol drink – no big deal.

- Does the age of the couple make any difference to this situation?
- What would you do in this position?
- What values would inform your consideration?
- If you wanted to decline the alcoholic drink, what would you actually say?

Scenario 4

You would like to have a party at your parents' house when they are away, and invite people from school/college, some of whom drink and smoke. Discuss practical options for organising it, including planning and what to do in possible scenarios.

- Is it possible/easy to have an alcohol-free party in your friendship groups?
- Would you want to?
- If alcohol were involved, what kind of boundaries would you have – both practically and in your own mind?
- How would you respect the faith backgrounds - and none - of all guests?
- What contingency plans might you have?
- What values would inform your decisions?

Scenario 5

You have been going out with someone for a few weeks and they are walking you home after a party. Your parents are away and you have promised to be very responsible. They say you are looking great tonight and ask to come in for a while.

- What would you do?
- What values would inform your consideration?
- Role play what you might say in this situation.
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