## Why Did You Do That?

When have you done something another person thought was very bad?

Read Numbers 25:1-18.

- 1. Why did the Israelite men sleep with the Moabite women?
  - A. They had been invited to a sleep-over.
  - B. The Moabite/Midianite women had seduced them.
  - C. There wasn't enough room in the Israelite tents for everyone.
  - D. They were teens who had no sexual restraint.
  - E. Most males never pass up an opportunity to have sex.
  - F. It's not that big of a deal—everyone does it.
  - G. Balaam suggested this when he couldn't curse God's people.
  - H. This would grow the number of Israelites by adding more offspring.
  - I. Other.
- 2. What made this so offensive?
  - A. The Israelite men were married, so they were cheating on their wives.
  - B. The Moabite women were married; they cheated on their husbands.
  - C. These Moabite women were pagan priestesses.
  - D. It was pagan worship: sacrifice to Baal, then sex with a priestess.
  - E. They were worshiping the pagan god Baal instead of Yahweh.
  - F. It happened right after God changed Balaam's curses to blessings.
  - G. What were the Israelite women supposed to do now?
  - H. This was a repeat of the orgy around the golden calf (Exodus 32:6).
  - I. Other.
- 3. Why did the Israelite leaders get executed publicly (vss. 4-5)?
  - A. Their sin was public so their punishment had to be public.
  - B. Leaders get judged by a higher standard.
  - C. God was furious at that time.
  - D. This added shame to their disgusting actions.
  - E. It was the common practice at that time.
  - F. God commanded this.
  - G. The same thing happened with the golden calf (Exodus 32:27-28).
  - H. This cooled God's anger.
  - I. Other.

- 4. Why did Zimri bring Cozbi into his tent in front of the Israelites?
  - A. He wanted her to join God's people.
  - B. He wanted to be joined to her.
  - C. He had no qualms about pagan worship in front of God's sanctuary.
  - D. He wanted to set a new standard for all Israelites.
  - E. It didn't seem like a big deal to him.
  - F. Satan was using him to plant sin in the camp of God's people.
  - G. He didn't think there would be negative consequences for his actions.
  - H. Other.
- 5. Why did Phinehas run his spear through Zimri and Cozbi?
  - A. It was a 2-for-1 deal.
  - B. The two of them seemed inseparable.
  - C. To stop the plague already spreading through the camp (vs 8-9).
  - D. Zimri's brazen defiance while the Israelites were repenting (vs 6).
  - E. Sex and idolatry overcame the Israelites more than pagan sorcery.
  - F. He had to execute them to maintain sanctuary holiness (Numbers 3:38).
  - G. Phinehas had never liked Zimri.
  - H. Other.
- 6. Why did God destroy the Midianites/Moabites (vs 17)?
  - A. They came from Abraham's second wife, Keturah (Genesis 25:1, 5-6).
  - B. The came from Abraham's nephew's daughter (Genesis 19:31-38).
  - C. They enticed the Israelites into pagan worship (Numbers 31;14-16).
  - D. They had committed the unpardonable sin.
  - E. The Israelites needed their land.
  - F. They had been the Israelites' persistent enemies.
  - G. God had never liked them.
  - H. Other.
- 7. Why has sex been such a big deal for good and evil for thousands of years?
- 8. Why is this story in the Bible? What does it tell you?