

**This Wednesday is our first discussion class. Meet me in front of the church building at 1201 Lavaca at 10 AM and I will show you where class is. Bring any questions you have or things you want to talk about.**

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now.

**Read and Discuss:** These paragraphs show dilemmas. A dilemma is a situation where a difficult choice must be made. Do you have any dilemmas facing you now?

1. Sally spoke to the surgeon after her mother's surgery. The surgeon said that her mother, "will probably pull through, but is not out of the woods yet". What did the surgeon mean? The doctor encouraged Sally to have a physical, because her mother's heart condition, "runs in families". Should Sally be alarmed? What are some examples of disease that runs in families? Are you aware of any disease that runs in your family?

2. Jeff went on a ski trip with a bunch of his college friends. It was an all men trip, so none of the wives were invited. The following summer, Jeff's wife, Jill, planned a trip to a beach resort with a few of her girlfriends. Jeff was upset that Jill was going on vacation without him. Jill said "What's good for the goose is good for the gander." What did Jill mean? Do you think it was right for Jill to plan an all women trip? Is it OK for a married couple to take separate vacations? Would you go on an all women trip to a resort if you were invited? Would you be angry if your husband went on an all men vacation without you?

3. Bev has two small children. She is worried that the kids won't be able to get into a good college. Her mother tells her: "Don't worry about that now. You can cross that bridge when you come to it." What does Bev's mother mean? Do you think Bev is right to worry about this when the children are young? Do you think parent's worry too much about their children being successful?

4. James and Jackie have been married for a year now. Before they were married, James played poker with his buddies once a week. James loves poker and enjoys the time spent with the guys. But Jackie feels like now that they are married, James should give up his poker nights. Jackie's mother says: "Old habits die hard." What does she mean? Do you agree with Jackie that James should give up his old habits? Have you ever faced a problem like this?

5. Pat and Kate live in a high crime neighborhood. When they first moved in, they were diligent about locking their doors and windows before they left the house. They always left outside lights on at night. And they set their security alarm. But after a few years with no problems, they got a little lackadaisical. They stopped leaving on lights and didn't always check to see that the doors and windows were locked. One night their house was broken into. The robbers took their TV, computers and lots of other valuables. Pat and Kate are sad that they "let their guard down". What does this mean? Have you ever let your guard down, then regretted it? What does "diligent" mean. What are you diligent about?

6. Lee was asked to his boss' home for dinner. The other employees were excited to hear about it the next day. They had heard that the boss had a very expensive and beautiful home. They wanted to hear all about it from Lee. Lee's comment was: "Well, it was nice and obviously expensive, but it wasn't to my taste." What did Lee mean by this comment? What is your taste?

Do you like modern or traditional design? Do you prefer bright colors or black and white design? Is your parent's home decorated to your taste? Are the American homes you have visited decorated to your taste?

7. Jane's son has an immune system disorder. He is susceptible to illness. At Thanksgiving the family was gathered for dinner. Jane discovered that her sister's daughter had a cold. The child was coughing and had a runny nose. She even had a slight fever. Jane was mad that her sister had brought a sick child to the family gathering. She asked her sister to take her daughter home. Her sister said, "Not on your life. I've been looking forward to this for weeks." Who is right in this situation? What would you have done if you were Jane? Have you ever faced a dilemma like this? Does it upset you when mothers bring sick children to school? What does "susceptible" mean.

8. Jan was driving behind an old gentleman who was going fifteen miles under the speed limit. Jan was in a hurry to get home. The school bus dropped her children off at 4PM. It was five minutes until four. Going fifteen miles under the speed limit, she would not get home before her children were dropped off. Jan wanted him to pull over and let her pass. She thought about honking at the man and motioning for him to pull over. But she felt bad about honking. He was an old man. He was doing the best he could. What should Jan do? Would it be rude to honk at the old man? Has this ever happened to you? Do you usually drive under the speed limit or over the speed limit?

9. Sandra works for a boss who gives her detailed instruction for every task he assigns her. Sandra is a smart, well-educated woman. She knows how to do things. She would like him to leave the details to her. She feels capable to solve problems without a lot of instructions. It is annoying to Sandra that her boss doesn't seem to recognize her abilities. She wants to talk to him about this problem, but she is afraid she will lose her job. Have you ever been in a similar situation? What should Sandra do?

10. Phil's mom is getting old. Phil notices that her mom often can't remember conversations he has had with her. Sometimes Phil calls her mother and arranges to take her to dinner. But when he arrives, his mother is not dressed. She has forgotten about Phil coming to take her out. Phil thinks his mother would be better off living with him and his wife. But Phil's mother refuses. She wants to keep her independence as long as possible. She doesn't want to be dependent on Phil. Should Phil insist that she move in with him? Have you had a similar situation? What advice would you give Phil?

**These conversations have errors. Read the conversations. Point out the errors and show how to correct them. Be careful. There is frequently more than one mistake.**

**Tammy:** Twenty twenty four is an election year in the U.S.. We will elect a president in November of that year.

**Sue:** Oh, I wasn't knowing that before.

**Chris:** The guide was nice but she didn't speak English very well. I couldn't always understand her speak.

**Mel:** That wasn't her faults. They don't teach English in school in that country.

**Jess:** Would you like to share my dessert. I can't eat it all by me.

**Anna:** Sure, I would like to share. Remember asking for an extra fork so we can share.

**Stan:** My wife didn't make as many money this year because there was very less work.

**Pat:** Was that because of COVID?

**Tara:** Have you been knowing Leslie for long?

**Amy:** Yes, I have been knowing her for years. We went school together.

**Susan:** I am looking forward for the weekend. We are going at the beach.

**Pam:** There will be much cold at the beach this weekend. There will be freeze. You should taking a coat.

**Ben:** I have use a new trick to kill the ants at my kitchen.

**Debbie:** Does it working?

**Barb:** When you finish that report, will you send it to Bill and I.

**Sherrill:** Yes, I want a copy to.

**Bev:** Do you like to drink the coffee?

**Shana:** No, I preferred tea.

**Sara:** It is my personnel opinion that most people aren't interesting in politics.

**Tam:** We asked him if we could extent the lease for two more months.

**Stella:** I can't wait until the Christmas this year.

**Lee:** Yes. It is one favorite holiday.