

To Take or Not to Take?

An activity of "Former prime minister guilty of corruption"

Read "**Former prime minister guilty of corruption**" (page 10, *What's Up* August 2020). The article shows us how corruption harms the community. It also shows us how easily positions of authority can be abused.

As outsiders, it is easy for us to make judgements about those accused of being corrupt. It is also easy for us to claim that we will never be corrupt. However, the reality is that matters like these are often very complicated.

1. Here are two different cases. In both scenarios, imagine that you are the person in charge. Make a wise decision based on your judgement of the situation. Explain to your group why you made the choice. In each of the scenarios, remember to ask yourself this question: Are you profiting in a wrong way from your position of authority?

Scenario 1: A bag of fruits

Imagine you are in charge of the pharmacy in a hospital. There are many patients in the queue. A woman approaches you with her sick and elderly father. Upon looking at her queue number, you realise that she is supposed to be last in the queue and there are many others ahead of her.

She tells you that she is afraid that the medicine will run out before it is her turn. She asks if her father can get the medicine first because he is exhausted and needs to rest at home. You know that her father's medicine will not run out so soon. But, you decide to let her skip the queue anyway because all the other patients are young.

She is grateful and offers you a bag of fruits as a thank-you gift. Is it okay to take it? Why or why not? What would you do in this case?

Scenario 2: A balance of \$10

Imagine you are a government official in charge of giving out financial aid. You have \$1,000 in the community fund to split between three people. To be fair, you decide to give each person \$330. This means that there is a balance of \$10.

One of the aid recipients suggests that you take the \$10. He says that you deserve to keep it because you have treated him fairly.

What do you do with this extra \$10? Who does this money belong to? Is it okay for you to take it? Why or why not? What would you do in this case?

2. As a group, discuss the different views that were shared. Present a summary of your group's thoughts with the rest of the class. Reflect on the different group presentations.