



# SCRIPTURE HOMEWORK!



Alan Branford  
alanbranford.net

## Vol. 3 No. 3 – The Troubled Teen – Introduction

Through Volume 3 of *Sharing the Love*, I have been presenting “Scripture in Action”, where we consider contemporary scenarios and how we should react from a Scriptural viewpoint. Elsewhere in this, the Third Issue, you have seen the third scenario. I hope you have been thinking about Part 1 before you read my suggested response in Part 2! The first three scenarios have been quite simple. Let’s see if you’ve got the hang of the idea. Now I am previewing the scenario for Issue 4, *The Troubled Teen*. This scenario is deliberately more complex and with more possible responses. I want all the Congregation, either individually or in your Home Groups, to see how you would handle this situation – don’t forget to note the Scriptural basis for your thinking.

Please email me your assessment of the scenario, and let’s see if people come up with different approaches. Email your response to [alan.branford@live.com](mailto:alan.branford@live.com) by the due date for Issue 4, and please indicate if you wish your response to be attributed to you or to be anonymous.

**DON'T FORGET YOUR HOMEWORK!**

## Vol. 3 No. 3 – The Troubled Teen – Part 1

You and your spouse have lived many years in an established suburb of Adelaide. You raised two children here, although they have both married and have infant families of their own. You are both relatively recently retired but are still quite active both physically and mentally.

The house across the road had recently become vacant upon the death of the elderly lady who lived there, and it seems as though her heirs have, at least for the time being, put the house on the rental market. A single mother, Sylvia, in her thirties and her fifteen-year-old son, Braden, have moved into the house. They haven’t really been there long enough to have properly settled in and got to know locals, especially because it is clear that Sylvia is not financially well off and spends long hours working in cleaning jobs. Braden has started at the local high school, and typically must leave for school and return to an empty house, as Sylvia is at work.

You have both noticed an increase in petty crime in the area. Mindless graffiti tags have been appearing on fences and signs, letterboxes have been damaged and even one morning you awoke to discover to your embarrassment that your front lawn was completely

covered in garden furniture and ornamentation from other residents' houses around the district! (This happened years ago to my grandparents in Reddie Street, Henley Beach!)

At your next Church Home Group meeting, you bring this up for discussion.

What sorts of things might the Church Home Group suggest?

© Dr Alan J. Branford, 13 January 2023

