

**PUPPET SKIT ON GOSSIP**  
*OR*  
**POOR, PITIFUL, PENELOPE'S PERPLEXING PREDICAMENT**  
**PERTAINING TO PEDRO'S PERSISTENT PROPOSITION TO**  
**PERPETUATE PIDDLY PIECES OF PRIVATE PERSONAL**  
**PROBLEMS**

*Penelope is sitting by herself.*

PENELOPE: Wow, I have a big problem. My friend, Pedro, has told me a juicy bit of gossip and I don't know what to do! What to do? What to do? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

*In walks JoAnne*

JOANNE: Well, hello, Penelope. It looks like you are trying to figure something out.

PENELOPE: Yes, I have a really big problem.

JOANNE: In your whole lifetime, you are bound to run into many problems that you will have to solve. Maybe you should focus on some steps you can take to lead you to do the right thing.

PENELOPE: That sounds like a lot of work. I don't know where to begin.

JOANNE: Have you thought about the situation? Who is involved? What kind of consequences could occur because of your choice? How will this have an effect on other people? There is a lot to think about.

PENELOPE: Yes, you have certainly given me a lot to think about.

JOANNE: Well, good. It is important to use our heads. I'll leave you to start thinking.

*Joanne walks out. Pedro shows up.*

PEDRO: What do you think of what I had to say? Wasn't that a doozy? Want to hear more?

PENELOPE: NO! I'm thinking about what's going on. I'm not sure that I want to be involved in this.

PEDRO: What do you mean? I thought we were friends. We're not hurting anybody.

PENELOPE: Are you sure about that?

PEDRO: I am out of here! I can share my news with other friends who are more willing to listen.

PENELOPE: What should I do? Now I have disappointed my best friend because I won't join in with the gossip crowd.

*In walks Father Dave*

FR. DAVE: Hi, Penelope. Isn't it a wonderful day?

PENELOPE: It might be a great day for you but it is a troubled day for me.

FR. DAVE: Why is that?

PENELOPE: Because I have a dilemma and I don't know what to do next. I've looked at the situation and thought about it. I've thought about how it will affect other people. I worry about what my parents will think, what my teacher will think, all of the people that I care about! I am stuck.

FR. DAVE: Do you know what I do when I come across a situation that is really bothering me and I can't decide what to do....

PENELOPE: I know, I know—you pray!

FR. DAVE: Do you know why we should pray? It is part of forming our conscience to do the right thing in each circumstance. When we make this a pattern in our lives we tend to handle confusing situations better. It becomes part of who we are.

PENELOPE: I get the picture. I will try that.

FR. DAVE: Good, Penelope, I am very proud of you. I'll see you later.

*Fr. Dave exits*

PENELOPE: Let's see, how do I pray for something like this...

*In comes Pedro*

PEDRO: Are you ready to hear more NOW?

PENELOPE: Seriously, Pedro, I need some time alone to pray about this.

PEDRO: ALONE??? You used to like when we'd hang out—even when we were talking about other people.

PENELOPE: Well, I don't know if I want to do that anymore.

*Pedro looks dejected, hangs his head, and leaves.*

PENELOPE: God, my conscience is confused. I know that you are here for me and that you gave me a good heart to know the right thing to do. Still, I need a little extra help. AMEN.

*In walks Penelope's mom*

MOM: Hi, Penelope! How is my little girl doing today?

PENELOPE: Hi, Mom.

MOM: You sound troubled. Can I help you somehow?

PENELOPE: Mom, when you were a kid did your friends gossip a lot?

MOM: Oh, the old gossipy group dilemma, eh?

PENELOPE: Yeah, have you had that problem?

MOM: I think that everyone has come across that at least once in their lifetime. Even grown ups still get caught up in that situation. When I'm tempted to listen to or spread gossip I think to myself, "What is my heart telling me? I know it is wrong, I know it hurts others, I know that there are going to be consequences." And yet, sometimes I'm still tempted. I have found that if I really look at what is going on, I pray about it, and I talk to someone I trust, it helps me decide how I'm going to act in a way that God would want me to act.

PENELOPE: Thanks, Mom. I knew that I could count on you. That makes a lot of sense. I think that I need to be alone now so that I can put all of this together and figure it out. I have to get my head working with my heart so that my hands know the right thing to do.

MOM: Remember that your father and I love you very much and that we are always here for you. As you grow older you might find other people to turn to: teachers, doctors, lawyers, people at church, and other wise people who are willing to share their insight. OK, I'll leave you alone to figure it all out now.

*Mom leaves*

PENELOPE: I've made a decision and now I think I know the right thing to do. Thank you, God, for helping me, and for all the wise people in my life. Amen.