

◇ Chapter 19  
Character Development

**EXPLORING YOUR VALUES**

Values are usually not taught directly. Rather, they are learned by watching and imitating the behavior of others. This means that they can become part of your philosophy of life without your realizing it. In this society, family, peers, and the media are three powerful sources for learning values.

**Directions:** Complete the chart below by identifying three values that you believe each group promotes. You can discover these values by asking yourself: What does each one want me to do, think, or be? What does each one want me to believe is important? Also list two possible advantages and two disadvantages of accepting the values of each group. Then study your responses to answer the questions that follow.

<b>VALUE SOURCES</b>			
	<b>Family</b>	<b>Peers</b>	<b>Media</b>
<b>Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Advantages</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>
<b>Disadvantages</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>

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### Thinking About Value Sources

1. Does the promotion of values by more than one source make you more apt to accept these values? Why or why not?

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2. What are each group's possible motives for teaching certain values? In other words, why do they want you to believe something is important?

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3. Can you affect the values of family, peers, and the media? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Identify four values that you accept and the source of each one. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. In question 4, did you identify any sources other than family, peers, or the media? If so, what were they?

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6. Why is it important to recognize the sources of your values? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What criteria can you use to judge the merit of a particular value? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Examine your own use of value sources. Do you use the criteria described in question 7 to analyze values? What value sources are most challenging for you to handle? Why? What can you do to strengthen your own value system?

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