

Human Nature – Discussion

Keep this sheet until the END of the unit! DO NOT throw it away!
Read each statement and decide whether or not you agree with it. Using a highlighter, mark on the line your level of agreement. Defend your position.
You may only mark “Not Sure” two times!

1. Life is a constant struggle: those not powerful enough to rise to the top deserve whatever they get.

Totally Agree Somewhat Agree Not Sure Somewhat Disagree Totally Disagree

2. People find it easier to do evil than to do good.

Totally Agree Somewhat Agree Not Sure Somewhat Disagree Totally Disagree

3. Most people are likely to conform rather than act on their own individual values.

Totally Agree Somewhat Agree Not Sure Somewhat Disagree Totally Disagree

4. Most people would prefer to rely on miracles than to depend on the fruits of their own labor.

Totally Agree Somewhat Agree Not Sure Somewhat Disagree Totally Disagree

5. Most people need something to worship.

Totally Agree Somewhat Agree Not Sure Somewhat Disagree Totally Disagree

6. Most people avoid the truth if it is painful.

Totally Agree Somewhat Agree Not Sure Somewhat Disagree Totally Disagree

7. War is the natural outgrowth of human nature.

Totally Agree Somewhat Agree Not Sure Somewhat Disagree Totally Disagree

8. Most people need authority to tell them what to do.

Totally Agree Somewhat Agree Not Sure Somewhat Disagree Totally Disagree

Discussion Questions:

9. No one likes to be different. It is difficult to stand up to your peers and disagree with them. Think of a time in your life when you stood up for what you believed - even in the face of ridicule from your peers. Describe the situation either in writing or with 2-3 others in a group.

10. One man/woman can make a difference. In America today, people sometimes feel like they can't make a difference. Everything is so big, powerful, and difficult to change. But it can be done. Think of situations in your own life or lives of your family or friends where one person's help has made a difference. Share, or write about this experience.

11. What is a hero? What qualities do heroes have? Think of people you think of as heroes and explain why you feel the way you do. These people can be personal heroes in your life, heroes you have seen in movies, or read about in books. Get into groups of four. Each group member should pick a hero and defend his/her choice.

12. In the 1930s many Americans feared that immigrants would compete for scarce jobs. What was the economic situation in the U.S. in the 1930s? Can you understand why Americans might have had an anti-immigration attitude? What is the economic situation today? How do Americans feel about immigrants today? Compare and discuss.