

Case Studies

This case study has five closely related parts: (1) The Problem and Preparation, (2) Confrontation, (3) Scenario 1, (4) Scenario 2, and (5) Real Life? Do the five parts in order and don't look ahead. Give the students time to think about the questions that are raised in each part and then talk about their answers before going on. Finally consider the follow-up questions that are raised at the end.

Prison Break! A Case Study in Faithful Decision Making

1 – The Problem and Preparation

Several armed convicts have escaped from a maximum security prison not far from your home. Forty-eight hours have gone by and so far the police have recaptured only one of the convicts. Your neighbors are scared to death!

In the event that you or your family are confronted by the convicts, you feel it is necessary to make preparations. Consider the following things you might do and answer the questions.

- 1 – You own a gun. What will you do with it?
- 2 – You do not have a gun or a security system. Will you do anything about this?
- 3 – You pray. With anyone? What will you pray for?
- 4 – Your neighbors organize a neighborhood watch. Will you participate?
- 5 – What else might you do?

2 – Confrontation – What will you do?

It happens! Two of the convicts break into your home and confront you. They are armed and dangerous. How will you react? Answer the questions.

- 6 – You own a gun. Will you try to use it?
- 7 – You have a dog. Will you turn it loose?
- 8 – You have a cell phone. Will you try to use it? To call or text whom?
- 9 – You know the Bible. Will you try giving them some religion?
- 10 – What else might you do?

3 – Scenario 1 – One Person's Response

"I believe in God, but I still have to protect my family. My pistols and shotgun are ready and loaded. Those cons better not show up on my property!"

"It's Tuesday. The cops still haven't caught those guys. I can't go out of the house without my .45. Gotta grill some steaks. I'll just stick the revolver in my belt.

"Steaks are looking pretty good.

"Whoa, what's that? A couple of cons by the woods! *@&#! Bet they smelled the steaks. I'll give 'em bullets to eat!"

11 – Do people react like this man? What do you think will happen?

4 – Scenario 2 – Another Person's Response

"The neighbors are keeping their guns loaded. But that's not right! Please, God, help me do the right thing if one of those convicts shows up. Please deliver us from evil.

"It's Tuesday morning. Those guys have been on the loose since Saturday. But we've been safe so far. If one of them shows up, please God, help me overcome evil with good.

"Oh no! That man on the porch has a shotgun! I'll bet he's one of them! What am I going to do? He probably hasn't eaten in days. If he comes in, maybe I can give him breakfast! Maybe he'll take it easy on us if I'm kind to him."

12 – What do you think will happen?

5 – Real life?

13 – Do scenarios like these happen in real life? If so, how do they play out? Read the newspaper clippings that follow.

Newspaper Clipping 1

10 Record-Journal, Meriden, Ct., Thursday, February 23, 1984

Escapees kill Tennessee man

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — Two escaped convicts who vowed not to be captured alive killed a Sunday school teacher grilling steaks in his back yard and abducted his wife, breaking through a police dragnet before freeing the woman unharmed 400 miles away.

A nationwide alert was issued for Ronald Freeman, 41, and James Clegg, 30, who were armed with a shotgun and at least four pistols. The two were among five convicts who escaped from the Fort Pillow Prison Farm in west Tennessee Saturday.

"I hope we get them before somebody else gets killed," said Sullivan

County Chief Deputy Keith Westmoreland in Bristol.

Elizabeth "Bo" Windrow, 57, told Knoxville police the fugitives left her lying on the floorboard of her car at a rest stop east of Knoxville about 6 a.m. with orders to count to 500 before leaving.

The fugitives fled in a waiting car, she said, but she was too frightened to look. Officials said they believed a woman was driving the car in which the pair fled.

Mrs. Windrow's husband, retired businessman Paul Windrow, was killed by the convicts Tuesday night.

Windrow, 59, a Sunday school teacher, put a .45 caliber pistol in his belt Tuesday night before he went out to grill steaks at his home near the prison in Brownsville.

Freeman and Clegg, each armed with a pistol, emerged from a hole they had dug and shot Windrow when he pulled the gun, authorities said. They took a shotgun and two pistols from the home.

Law officer David Davenport said the convicts told Mrs. Windrow "they will not be taken alive."

Hundreds of law enforcement agents searched the mountains of five east Tennessee counties Wednesday, setting up roadblocks. Freeman was serving 198 years for the 1970 murders of his wife and 10-year-old stepdaughter and Clegg was serving life as a habitual criminal.

Newspaper Clipping 2



UPI photo

Mrs. Degrafinried cooks meal for prisoner

***Armed killer succumbs
to home cooking, Bible***

BRADEN, Tenn. (UPI) — An escaped murderer armed with a shotgun became "a little child" in the hands of a 73-year-old grandmother who insisted he eat breakfast Tuesday and then persuaded him to surrender by preaching about Jesus.

"All I knowed to talk to him about was Jesus, and I did," said Louise Degrafinried. "When he came in I went to giving him Bible. I told him I love him and Jesus loves him."

Riley Arzeneaux, 26, is one of five convicts, described as "extremely dangerous," who escaped from Fort Pillow State Prison Saturday, commandeered cars, held two families hostage and traded gunfire with officials.

✓ Killer

(Continued from page 1)

neighbor and then took charge of the situation.

"I told him when he come into the house, 'Put your gun down. I'm a Christian woman and I don't want no violence,'" she said.

She said the convict followed her instructions "like a little child" and meekly placed the shotgun on a sofa. The gun had been taken from a prison guard in the escape.

"I asked him where his mother was, and he said she was in Texas, but his grandmother raised him. I prayed for him and I said I'm sure his mother was praying for him too."

While Mrs. Degrafinried prepared scrambled eggs, bacon, bread and a quart of powdered milk for the convict's breakfast, her husband went outside and disabled his pickup truck so

Arzeneaux curled up under a rug on the porch of Mrs. Degrafinried's house Monday night and leveled a shotgun at her husband, Nathan Degrafinried when he stepped outside the home Tuesday morning.

Another escapee, Randolph Oliver, 32, of Memphis, was captured Sunday while hitchhiking. Authorities said they believed a third fugitive had fled the area in a stolen Cadillac, and they beefed up the search for two others.

Mrs. Degrafinried was talking to a neighbor on the telephone when she saw the convict pointing a gun at her husband. "Call the police," she told the

✓ See KILLER, page 4

Arzeneaux could not escape.

Degrafinried flagged down highway patrol officers who had been summoned by the neighbor.

"He seen my husband talking to them and said, 'He's turning me in.' I said, 'You sit back down at the table.' I went out and told them (troopers) he done calmed down. He's ready to give up."

The convict, who had not eaten in three days, finished his breakfast, walked out of the house unarmed and surrendered. He was returned to Fort Pillow, where he was serving a 25-year term for murder.

The fugitives still loose were identified as Ronald Freeman, 41, serving 198 years for two murders; James Clegg, 30, serving life as a habitual criminal; and Sylvester Alexander, 23, serving 40 years for armed robbery.

Follow-up Questions

14 – From Scenario 1: “I believe in God, but I still have to protect my family.”

Is this true?

Does Jesus teach a doctrine of self-preservation?

What does Jesus teach?

15 – Read these Bible passages. What do they teach?

Matthew 26:52; Luke 23:43; Romans 12:17 & Proverbs 20:22; Proverbs 24:29;

Romans 12:18 & Psalm 34:14; Romans 12:19 & 1 Samuel 24:12-13;

1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 Peter 2:23, and 1 Peter 3:9.

16 – Who did the right thing in real life, the Sunday school teacher or Grandma Louise?
In what ways was it right?