



## Counterculture

### What's It All About?

As a third grader, my dream was to be a JC Middle School ambassador who represented the school by welcoming new students and serving as a tour guide. Unfortunately, during the summer before my middle school experience, my whole life changed! We lost our home, moved across town, and had numerous health problems, resulting in an astronomical amount of bills. I would not attend JC. My dream was now a nightmare.

But during December, real-life miracles began to happen. My family was getting better as our health improved. We were waiting to hear from an agency about the possibility of returning to our old neighborhood,

which meant getting into JC! An approval letter arrived just before the second semester. We were moving back to our neighborhood and I would return to my dream school! Though thankful for everything, I lost my chance to become an ambassador.

Of course, friendships had been formed during the first semester. Cliques, too! So, I focused all my energy on academics. Within a few months, I was back on track academically, but I had no real friends. During this time a new girl came to our school. Pernella was clearly struggling with some of the same issues.

"Pernella," I called to her one day.

She seemed shocked that I called her by name. "Yeah," she answered, suspiciously.

"Your schedule is similar to mine, and I have seen you in the hallways. Mind if we walk together?"

Her eyes widened, and she smiled. "Sounds great!"

"Okay, let's meet back here after class, and then go to lunch together," I suggested.

She nodded. "See you soon!"

As I hurried to class before the bell, I couldn't help but recall my dream, my family's difficulties, and now my duty and delight to be God's ambassador.

*What are some of your feelings when you think about or see those who are poor, homeless, or mistreated? Have you ever wondered how God feels about them? If yes, which feelings of God come to your mind?*



### Learning From God

God's heart, thinking, and wisdom are so much higher and better than those of humankind. He teaches us how to view and respond to others like He would. To follow God's teachings, we must study them, seek His help in understanding, and discipline ourselves to apply them. God's perspective on any area is always based on His great love for the people He created. As His followers, we must recognize the gap between our limitations and God's all-knowing character, seek His help, and rely on His power to have the mind of God, then, imitate Him.

**Deuteronomy 24:10–21, NIV**—When you make a loan of any kind to your



## What I Have Learned

God wants us to help those who really need it by being \_\_\_\_\_.

z q u i v n o n a l c t w d m  
e s r i n b p t t k g a i f x h  
o j x u n z v d a t a c l

Thinking of our story, write at least three things that you believe helped Pernella. Why were they helpful?

[illegible]

Consider *justice* as you now understand it after today's lesson. What injustices do you see happening in your community? Think of your school and neighborhood. This week, share your thoughts about injustices with someone and ask for their help in creating a plan to do something about it. Always pray, and then obey, letting God lead you to action.