



# I, Robot: Breaking the Law?

## Reminders:

- If you are going to use a movie clip, ALWAYS PREVIEW IT! No exceptions! You are responsible for what you show your group! Our writers will always try to provide “clean clips” and warn you of nearby questionable words or content, but all art forms are subjective. Only you can determine what to show your group. Number one rule: watch it first.
- Please read the Terms of Use at the end of this lesson for important licensing and copyright information.

## Goal:

To accept Jesus’ invitation to honor the laws of relationship over religion.



## Setting the Stage:

To begin today's discussion, ask your students about the last time they broke the law. If they're willing to share (and their experience is appropriate enough to share), ask them to explain the circumstances surrounding the event. Students may also share about breaking rules at school. Offer to them that they may think they haven't broken any laws or rules recently. Before all your students think they're in the clear, though, have them check out some random laws from <http://www.dumblaws.com/>. Use the following list below for your discussion or go to the website together. In some states, the following activities are illegal: flushing the toilet after 10 p.m., owning PVC pipe, placing a couch on a porch, and wrestling a bear. Ask your students which ridiculous laws they have seen, heard, or experienced. End your discussion by asking if there is ever a time it's okay to break the law. Have your students explain their responses to this final question.

## I, Robot Overview:

*I, Robot* is a sci-fi action thriller portraying the tension caused between humans and humanoid robots living alongside each other. As Detective Spooner (Will Smith) investigates an unfolding murder plot, the laws of robotics and society are pressed to their limits. As a result, the salvation or destruction of humankind hangs in the balance.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *I, Robot* is rated "PG-13" for "intense stylized action and some brief partial nudity." Leaders should preview clips prior to showing them to the group. Also, it would be helpful if the leader has seen the entire movie.

## Scripture:



### **Mark 3:1–6**

The story of Jesus' life displays shards of broken laws quite often, but maybe not in the same way we think about illegal activity. He broke the laws of gravity when He walked on water. He broke social custom laws when He ate with sinners and tax collectors. He broke ethnic laws when He spoke with foreigners and purity laws when He touched the diseased and dying. In this scene, Jesus breaks the law of the Sabbath by healing someone on a day when the teachers of the law mandated no unnecessary work. Jesus challenges their concept of the Sabbath with its true intention. Since creation (Genesis 2), God had provided this holy day of rest for people to find restoration and healing, not to just keep as a rule in order to be holy. The benefits of relationship for which God created the day of rest are more important than resting just because there's a rule about resting. Jesus broke the religious rules to keep the rule of relationship sacred and primary.

### **Movie Clip:**

“Sonny”

**DVD Time:** Start the clip near the beginning of chapter nine (time: 19:11) as Dr. Calvin says, “Detective.” End the clip near the end of chapter nine (time: 20:34) after Dr. Calvin says, “Deactivate.”

#### ***Introduction to Clip***

Detective Spooner and the doctor discuss the laws of robotics while searching a room for a hidden intruder.

#### ***Key Comments and Principles from Clip***



- Detective Spooner: “Well, you know what they say...laws were made to be broken.”
- Dr. Calvin: “A robot could no more commit murder than a human could walk on water.”

## What Did You See?

After viewing the clip, ask the group these questions:

- What spiritual elements did you see?
- Which words, phrases, or images were the most powerful to you? Why?
- Why do you think Detective Spooner is suspicious of robotic laws being broken?
- Who was” the one guy a long time ago” who walked on water that Detective Spooner is referring to? What are your thoughts about this material being included in the film?
- From what you viewed, do you think Detective Spooner puts more trust in robotic law or human instinct? Why?
- If humans are imperfect, how could they create perfect laws to govern robots?

## What Did You Read?

After reading the scripture for today, ask the following questions:

- What are the key elements in this scripture?
- Do you believe Jesus is guilty of breaking the law in this passage? What’s your reasoning?
- Why are relationships with people more important to Jesus than keeping the rules of religion?



- What do you believe was the motivation behind the Pharisees' accusations and plots against Jesus?
- If you had been the person healed, what would you have said to Jesus' critics?

## What Does It All Mean?

Tie the movie clip and scripture together by asking the following questions:

- Define religion.
- Is being a Christ-follower more about religion or relationship? How so?
- What does this phrase mean to you: "Reject religion...embrace Jesus"?
- Name one rule that is a part of religion or your church that you don't understand. Let's discuss whether it has more to do with religion or relationship.
- Describe the number one complaint your friends have against Christianity. Why do you think this is?
- Based upon Jesus' practice of holding relationship more sacred than the laws of religion, do your friends have a good point? Why or why not?

## Creative Activity:

Jesus identified the most important law (or command) in Luke 10:27 as loving God with all you are and loving your neighbor as yourself. Take your group to a public setting like a mall, park, or school to conduct a survey. Gather people's answers to this simple question: When do you think it's okay to break the law? Take the group out for milkshakes after an appropriate amount of time has passed. Discuss the responses using Jesus' practice of relationship over religion as a guide to determine what Christ's action would be for each situation. Be cautious of justifying sin throughout the conversation



with your students, praying before, during, and/or after your discussion for the Lord's wisdom to understand what is most glorifying to Him in each scenario.

**TERMS OF USE:** In producing this teaching material, Barefoot Ministries references the use of movie clips as suggestions for teaching Christian principles in home small groups. The use of movie clips is a suggestion only, and alternatively the movie content could be discussed verbally, without showing any movie clips. Special permission must be granted for any public performance of copyrighted material, including church use. Legal use of and licensing of suggested material under copyright is the responsibility of the local user and/or the local church. Barefoot Ministries is not responsible for the licensing or use of any media suggested in this material. Barefoot Ministries advises that any church or individual secure proper licensing before any public showing of any part of any motion picture, or recorded copyright media. You can secure a Church Video License and/or find out more information about public viewing of copyrighted media by contacting Christian Video Licensing International at [www.cvli.org](http://www.cvli.org) or calling 1-888-771-CVLI.

