

Safe Environment Training for Children

Lesson and Background

Grades 6-8

Main Points for Safe Environment Training for Children Curriculum Gr. K-12:

1. We are made in the image and likeness of God.
2. Our bodies are special because they are Temples of the Holy Spirit.
3. No one should touch us in a way that makes us feel uncomfortable, particularly in the places normally covered by a swimsuit.
4. If someone does touch us in a way that makes us feel uncomfortable, we should have someone to whom we can go to get it to stop.

Preparation Activity and Primary Proclamation:

- Give students three minutes in small groups to brainstorm and write down the qualities of a good friend. When the time is complete, gather their responses using one of the following methods:
 - Ask each group to read responses while you or a student writes them on the board.
 - Ask students to write responses on sticky notes (or notecards with tape) and stick them to a wall. Allow students a couple minutes to read the responses posted.
 - Create word-art using an online tool (such as <https://worditout.com/word-cloud/create>).
- Ask students to find and read a biblical view of faithful friendship in Sirach 6:14-16 in their bibles. Write verse 14 on the board or on a posterboard. (*Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure.*) <http://www.usccb.org/bible/sirach/6>
 - Invite students to write the verse on a notecard to take home and place it where it will remind them to be a faithful friend to others.

Explanation:

- Share the following ideas to make the connection between God and faithful friendship:
 - God has all the traits of a faithful friend. God is, in fact, our most faithful friend.
 - Ask students to name the qualities of faithful friendship that they can “see” in God. Be sure to refer to the brainstorm list from the beginning of the session.
 - God is a model for friendship:
 - God is One, but God is also a relationship of three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - The Father is faithful to the Son, and the Son is faithful to the Father, and the Holy Spirit is the love that proceeds from that faithful friendship.
 - The Trinity is therefore a model for faithful friendship because the Trinity is a relationship of three Persons.
 - We know that God calls us to also be in relationship with faithful friends because God made us *in his image and likeness*.
 - Ask students to share reasons God might want us to live in friendship with others.
- Share the following ideas to help students understand Christian motivation for being a faithful friend:

- God is a faithful friend to us. If we want to live as disciples of Jesus, we must become more and more like him. This means we must be faithful friends to others.
- When we are a faithful friend to others, we are a faithful friend to God:
 - God dwells inside all members of the Body of Christ. (*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you...? 1 Corinthians 6:19*) Therefore, when we are a faithful friend to another person, we are being a faithful friend to God who dwells within that person.
 - Jesus tells us that what we do for others we do for him. (*Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40*) Therefore, if we care for another as a faithful friend, we are caring for Jesus and being a faithful friend to him.
- Ask students to stand. Hang a sign with the word “FAITHFUL” on one side of the room and a sign with the word “UNFAITHFUL” on the other side of the room. Explain that you will quickly name things that people might pressure someone to do. If it describes pressure from a faithful friend because it is good for their body/soul, they should take one step to the side of the room with the FAITHFUL sign. If it describes pressure from an “unfaithful friend” or anyone who might harm their body/soul, they should step to the side of the room with the UNFAITHFUL sign.
 - NOTE: You may not need all of the the pressures listed below, but you should include some from the “Faithful” category along with all the ones marked with the arrow (⇒).
 - NOTE: The answers will be easy, so it is important to rapidly give the descriptions below in order to get them moving and have a little fun as you try to trip them up.

Is a person a Faithful or an Unfaithful friend to you if he/she pressures you to:

1. Drive past McDonald’s and choose healthier food instead - Faithful
2. Wear deodorant - Faithful
3. ⇒Not share photos or meet alone with someone online who you haven’t met in person.
4. Go to a party without adults present - Unfaithful
5. Let your younger sibling tag along to the playground with you - Faithful
6. ⇒Wear clothing that imitates popular style but which is immodest - Unfaithful

****Defining immodesty for students may be necessary. A common concept, without getting into specific styles, is that immodesty draws attention to our bodies in a way that has the potential for leading to sin when arousing lust in another. Dressing modestly, on the other hand, encourages others to focus on our mind, heart, and soul.***
7. Try some beer with your peers - Unfaithful
8. Treat your catechist with kindness and respect - Faithful 😊
9. Study for the test coming up tomorrow - Faithful
10. ⇒Look at pornography - Unfaithful
11. Attend the parish youth night activity - Faithful
12. ⇒“Get physical” (more than a simple hug or kiss) with your boyfriend/girlfriend - Unfaithful
13. Cheer for the Green Bay Packers - Catechist choice on the right answer!! 😊
14. Use social media to smear a peer who turned another friend against you - Unfaithful
15. ⇒Tell a teacher that you trust about your uncle who made you feel really uncomfortable by hugging you really close (or touching you in any way that made you feel

uncomfortable or on a part of your body that is normally covered by a swimsuit) - Faithful

16. Join your friends for a game of softball at the park - Faithful
17. Eat a whole bag of licorice - Unfaithful
18. Attend local pro-life rally - Faithful
19. ⇒ Warns you not to tell anyone about something you know is wrong or that makes you feel uncomfortable. - Unfaithful
20. Tell the school principal about some bullying you saw on school grounds - Faithful
21. ⇒ Go to a movie with a high school junior who asked you - Unfaithful
22. Give up your childhood blanket when you go to sleepovers with your friends - Correct answer open for persuasion!!

Application:

- Choose one of the options below:
 - Distribute the activity sheet titled, "6-8 Faithful Friend wksht." This worksheet is available to download in the Shared Drives>Protection of Children>Safe Environment Training for Children Materials>Materials for Grades K-8 folder or by using this link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jH-LuVyDtBosGTSRHe3LJnjCCKylefvh/view?usp=sharing>
 - Ask students to work with a partner to complete the top section of the worksheet.
 - Then invite them to complete the middle section alone listing names of trusted adults like parents, teachers, priests, etc...
 - Finally, make sure the verse from Sirach that you wrote earlier is erased or hidden, and ask students to complete the bottom section of the worksheet.
 - Divide students into small groups. Distribute notecards, each having a different scenario of one person pressuring another to do things that could bring harm to body/soul. (You may choose ones you did not use from the listing above, create your own, or distribute blank cards and ask students to come up with their own ideas). Give students 5 minutes to prepare a quick skit based on the scenario. Students should clearly demonstrate all three of the following as they present their skits to the class.
 - What the individual is being pressured to do
 - A reasonable response to the pressure, based on Christian principles
 - A discussion with a trusted adult about the situation

Celebration:

- Divide students into pairs. Distribute to each pair two notecards, each note card having the name of a student NOT in their pair. Tell students this is their opportunity to be a faithful friend who acts in the image of God. Ask each pair to write on the notecard positive qualities/skills/gifts/traits of the student named on the card. Remind them that they should be serious and sincere as they exercise faithful friendship by building up the soul of the other students through their positive comments. As pairs complete the exercise, collect and read them to assure that all comments are positive. Distribute each note card to the student whose name is listed and give the students a moment to read the comments.
- Distribute the prayer sheet titled, "6-8 Prayer SETFC Lesson." This worksheet is available to download in the Shared Drives>Protection of Children>Safe Environment Training for Children

Materials>Materials for Grades K-8 folder or by using this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MSBxy8-I6KmiygBQdvwWhOtJa30XoCXYc3zM6qnsFbo/edit?usp=sharing>

- Quiet the students for prayer and read the quote aloud slowly, pausing as you read, giving students time to momentarily reflect.
- End with the closing prayer on the sheet.

Additional SETFC Media Resources:

A listing of additional SETFC Media Resources are available in the Shared Drives>Protection of Children>Safe Environment Training for Children Materials>Materials for Grades K-8 folder or by using this link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j0W-fWUvANJyxTT-9nRsOjD5CGfJVzKv/view?usp=sharing>