

**Grade 7 Safe Environment Lesson Plan**  
*Grade 7 Theological Concept –Mary and Joseph*  
Lesson 3 of 4

**Appropriate and Inappropriate Relationships**

**Objective:** To guide students to realize the difference between appropriate and inappropriate relationships.

**Resources and Connections:** Luke 2: 41 -52; Catechism of the Catholic Church, *The Book of Virtues for Young People*, by William J. Bennett. This could be taught with the Joyful Mysteries.

**Estimated Time:** 20 minutes

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**Lesson:**

1. Read the passages on page 111-112 of *The Book of Virtues for Young People*, or another story about friends helping friends. Discuss those passages.
2. Point out the following themes to discuss further:
  - Friends should try to make each other better people. They help each other make right decisions and aim for worthy goals.
  - Being a good friend is doing what is best for your friend, which will not always be the easiest thing to do.
  - You must choose your friends wisely. Your friends can influence what kind of person you will be.
3. Discuss appropriate relationships with adults. Ask:
  - On what is the relationship between a parent and child based? *Parent and child-relationships are based on trust and mutual love. The parent's responsibility is to raise the child to love and serve God.*
  - On what is the relationship between a teacher and student based? *Teacher and student- relationships are based on respect and trust. Teacher and student must have mutual respect for one another.*
  - Is it ever appropriate for a teacher (or a boss) to be your buddy? Discuss the limits on appropriate adult relationships.
4. Talk about the relationships Mary and Joseph had with others:
  - How did they treat those who came to see the baby Jesus?
  - How would you guess they treated those around them everyday?
5. Read the Gospel passage: Luke 2: 41-52. Acknowledging that Jesus is God and that we are not, ask students to discuss which of his actions and choices would be appropriate in their relationship with their own parents and which would not.

**Activity:** Individually or as a group, spend 5 minutes writing a prayer asking Mary and Joseph for help in making good relationships.