



Diocese of Joliet

Safe Environment for Children Touching Safety Instruction

Grades 6-8 – using *A Time to Tell* (Boy Scouts) English or Spanish

NOTE: When using this program, the diocesan requirement to fulfill the OCYP audit is to instruct students using either of the following two sections:

Abuse by a Relative

Abuse by a Youth Leader

The section on internet safety is also recommended within the context of a youth ministry program, and may be used or adapted for use.

BEFORE THE LESSON

Today we are going to talk about keeping yourself safe from sexual abuse. We in your school/religious education program and parish community want you to be safe because we care about you. As God's special creation, you deserve to be treated with care and respect.

Before we begin, let's pray for God to be with us today.

Have someone read aloud from a Bible: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Let us pray....(short silence)

God, you have made each of us in your image, temples of your Spirit,

And we know that each one of us is precious in your eyes.

We ask you to be here with us today

as we learn together how to protect ourselves.

Open our ears to hear what you wish us to know

Open our eyes to see what you wish to show us

Open our hearts to the possibilities of growth and understanding

that you wish us to experience today.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

VIEW DVD

Pause at the indicated points for discussion. Have students note the "grooming" behaviors that the abusers employ, the signs the victim is uncomfortable, etc. Use the definitions on the back of the DVD case for the discussion points. **NOTE:** When using this with a mixed group of boys and girls, be sure to indicate that while those portrayed here are male victims, the same kinds of strategies are employed by those who abuse girls.

AFTER THE LESSON

CLOSING PRAYER

Begin with a recording of appropriate youth-friendly music – suggestions:

- “Be Not Afraid” – recommend Jesse Manibusan youth version – from *Spirit & Song by Request* (or *Spirit & Song* full set), Oregon Catholic Press
- “You Are Mine” – David Haas
- from *God is My Rock* (World Library): “Strength For The Journey”, John Michael Poirer; “I Survive”, John Angiotti; or “You Hear Me” Paul Tate & Paul Berrell
- from *Turn My Heart*, Marty Haugen (GIA) “Healer of Our Every Ill Litany” or “Bambelela/Never Give Up”

Copy and distribute prayer on the next page so all can read out loud together:

(or order the USCCB prayer card, publication No. 5-506 by calling 1-800-235-8722)

Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

God of endless love,
Ever caring, ever strong,
Always present, always just:
You gave us your only Son
To save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace
Join to your own suffering
The pain of all who have been hurt
In body, mind and spirit
By those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize
Over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
Soothe restless hearts with hope,
Steady shaken spirits with faith:
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
Enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
Heal your people’s wounds
And transform our brokenness.
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
So that we may act with justice
And find peace in you.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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