Grade Three and Four

Safe Environment

St. Raphael Church

**Objectives:**

1. Students will understand God made us in his image and wants us to be safe and for our bodies to be respected.
2. Students will learn about the three types of abuse.
3. Students will identify people they can go to for help when they are in an unsafe situation.

**Materials:** Booklets, prayer of St. Francis

**Centering:**

1) Welcome children and any parents.

2) Say in your own words or these words:

We are here tonight to teach that relationships are an important of life.  Most relationships are good and healthy and are part of God’s plan for us to live together in families and communities.  Unfortunately, there are some situations in life where another part might be trying to hurt us.   It is important to learn to recognize those situations and to know how to ask for help if that ever happens to us.  Let’s quiet ourselves and begin with a prayer.

3) Prayer:

Begin with the Sign of the Cross.

1 John 16-18

**16** We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. **17** How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+3%3A16-18&version=NRSVACE#fen-NRSVACE-34850a)] in need and yet refuses help?

**18** Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

Amen

**Sharing:**

1. Say:  All people and especially children should feel safe, physically and emotionally.  It is the work of parents, teachers, and the whole community to make sure children are protected from people who are not treating them as God wants them to be treated.  Children must also learn to recognize when they are not being treated with respect and how to get help when they need it.

2. Pass out booklets. Complete the page that has what your family likes to do. Have kids share their ideas. Stress, we are all made special by God and he wants us to feel safe and loved. When we feel unsafe, it is important that we know what to do and where we can turn.

**3.** Define the 3 types of abuse

1. **Physical Abuse-** Any type of harm that a person inflicts on you physically
2. **Sexual Abuse-** Being touched in your private parts in a way that make you feel uncomfortable. Our private parts are the parts of our body our bathing suite covers. Only certain people have the right to touch us there, like the doctor or a parent who is bathing a young child. It is NEVER ok for someone to touch you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable. Why not? This is never to be kept a secret. What can you do if someone touches you a way that makes you feel uncomfortable?
   1. Say NO
   2. Get Away
   3. Tell someone you trust
3. **Emotional Abuse-** When someone does or says something that makes us feel badly about ourselves.

4. Complete page on network of people you can trust.

5. Say: Tonight we talked about keeping ourselves safe.  It is very important we know how to do this and that we know there are people who love us and care about us.  But most of all we know God loves us and cares about us.  Put your papers in your religious education folder to show your parents what we talked about tonight.

**Acting**

1. Hand out the prayer of St. Francis
2. Invite students to pray with you together.

WRITE THREE THINGS YOUR FAMILY LIKES TO DO.

1.

2.

3.

WRITE THE NAMES OF EACH PERSON OF YOUR FAMILY/FAMILIES.  DECIDE ONE THING THAT MAKES EACH PERSON IN YOUR FAMILY SPECIAL AND WRITE A WORD OR PHRASE NEXT TO EACH NAME.  (Example:   Eric - good at music; Anna - kind)

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