**Safe Environment**

Grades 1-2

**Objectives:**

1) Our bodies are sacred and holy and created in the image and likeness of God. *God wants us to be safe, protected and loved in a comfortable way, always.*

2) Each person deserves to have their bodies respected and to be safe and protected.

3) When we feel unsafe, we can identify trusted adults in our lives whom we can go to for help.

*Materials*: Visual aids(3),Stop sign books for each students, I am Special prayer for each student, art materials

**Centering:**

1) Tell students that today’s class we will talk about how God wants us to feel safe, protected, and loved in a comfortable and unconditional love that God gives us. He gives us trusted adults to go to when we are uncomfortable, not feeling protected or not loved in a comfortable way. (You will repeat this many times throughout the lesson, repetition is important for this age group.)

2) Begin by opening with the **I am Special Prayer** Remind them *God created goodness & wants us* ***to be safe, protected and loved in a comfortable way. ALWAYS****!*  We are that special to Him.

**Sharing:**

1) Introduce the lesson by explaining that we all have the right to be safe. Be sure to define “right” for them. (deserving and not having to do something in return) Have class read the first page of the booklet together.

2) Have them turn to next page with “cookie people”. Brainstorm with kiddos on board what it feels like to be **Safe**: happy, calm, comfortable, relaxed… Have kiddos draw how SAFE looks on 1 of the cookie people(happy face etc.) . Allow only about a minute. They can copy words from the board if easier. Then brainstorm next to Safe column **Unsafe**: nervous, uncomfortable, sad, anxious… Kiddos catch on that these columns are opposite. Talk about the warning signs that God gives our bodies when we feel we are unsafe, like when someone touches us, shows us images, or talks inappropriately. Use visual, if needed. The key to this part of the lesson is to help them define a normal reaction when we are exerting ourselves to that of when we are not physically active, perhaps just being next to someone . Give the example of running at recess on a warm day. They will sweat, maybe feel sick in the tummy, wobbly, heartrate is racing; all due to heat and running so hard. It is **NOT** normal to feel these when we are next to someone touching us, showing us pictures or videos, or using language inappropriately. God gives us those warning signs. Give kiddos 2 minutes to draw second cookie people feeling UNSAFE(tears, sad face, heart etc.) Remind them ***God wants us to be safe, protected and loved in a comfortable way****,* just like our parents do.

3) Turn page and read together. Turn to next page and have them trace their hand inside stop sign symbol. Use visual, if needed. Brainstorm who we can tell if we feel unsafe or uncomfortable , or not loved in a way we are to be loved. For example, if someone has touched us, or shown pictures etc. You may have someone share God/Jesus or a sibling or friend is who they trust. Write them on the board validating the student, and put a star next to them to explain after brainstorming. Give the example of how yes, we trust God/Jesus and these starred people, but PHYSICALLY (strength, size, abilities) cannot protect us or really keep us safe. Should be an ADULT. Have them list at least five safe people, one for each finger. Also talk about safe places (home, school classroom or counselor’s, neighbor etc.). Remind them *God wants us to be safe, protected and loved in a comfortable way.*

4) Turn page and use visual with 3 Big Rules. Review and write safety rules. Say No, Get Away, Tell an Adult(Stress that if they don’t believe you, keep telling until someone does!) Remind them *God wants us to be safe, protected and loved in a comfortable way. Like our parents do :0)*

5) Send home prayer & stop sign book.

**Acting:**

1) Review with students the 3 Big Rules for what to do if someone touches, shows you videos or pictures or uses language that makes you feel unsafe, unprotected, uncomfortable or not loved how you are supposed to be loved.

2) End by saying the Our Father together.

These lesson plans comply with the Green Bay Diocese requirement of Safe Environment for students participating in Religious Education programs within the GB Diocese grades 1 & 2.

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