

LESSON 3 Friendship and Bullying

In This Lesson

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What the Church Says About

Importance of Patience

Unless we cultivate patience, we will always find excuses for responding angrily. We will end up incapable of living together, antisocial, unable to control our impulses, and our families will become battlegrounds.

Pope Francis,
Amoris Laetitia, 92 (2016)



We Make the Choice to Respect Others

At this age children live by many rules, and they know there are consequences for not following them. Children are also just beginning to learn what respect means and how it is reflected through our behavior. Being respectful goes hand in hand with following rules such as “wait your turn” and “keep your hands to yourself.” However, genuine respect comes from our desire to share God’s love and do his work in his kingdom. We treat people with respect because we want to, not because we have to.

**When we treat others with respect,
we are examples of God’s love.**

All people are deserving of our respect. Parents model how to treat others through what they do and say as well as what they do not do and say, whether they are aware of it or not. Parents can make a conscious choice to demonstrate how to treat others with the respect they are due as fellow children of God.





3minute
RETREAT

As the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

Colossians 3:13

Reflection

When we receive God's forgiveness, we often do not appreciate that he is showing us his compassionate mercy as well. Jesus, in his words, actions, and sacrifice, has shown us how deeply the Father cares for us. However, we show a lack of understanding and awareness of this bond when we are unwilling to extend mercy, compassion, and forgiveness to others, especially to those who are close to us. By making the choice to act in this manner, we are separating ourselves from the compassionate mercy of God.

Questions

In what ways can I show my gratitude for God's mercy? What steps can I take to open my heart to compassion and forgiveness for those who have hurt me?



Prayer

Speak to Jesus, using the words of this prayer or your own.

Jesus, you have opened for me the Father's abundant grace of mercy and forgiveness. Help me be a channel of this grace to others.

Lead Your Child to Grow with God: Spiritually, Socially, and Physically

Spiritual All people are made in the image and likeness of God, yet we are all different. We look different, and we all have our own ways of speaking and interacting. Explain to your child that each person has the same immeasurable value in God's eyes. How we treat others reflects how we value God.



Social Failing to report bullying behavior can make the situation worse. Explain to your child that bullying behavior needs to be reported to an adult any time it happens. Emphasize that this includes both bullying that happens to your child and bullying of another child that your child sees or hears about.

Physical Encourage your child to demonstrate compassion, empathy, kindness, mercy, and patience when participating in physical activities with others. Have an honest discussion with your child about how people possess different abilities and progress at different rates. So, not every child will be equally able to play a game or sport or take part in a group activity at the same level as the other children. No child should be left out of an activity. Instead, whenever possible, encourage your child to take part in activities that welcome children of all ability levels.

Safe and Sacred at Home



Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way (Loyola Press)
by Pope John Paul II

I have always been convinced that without prayer, we can never succeed in bringing children up well. As a bishop I encouraged families and parish communities to develop in young children a desire to encounter God in private prayer.

Big Ideas

In Lesson 3, your child will:

- identify the qualities of a good friend.
- demonstrate an understanding of empathy, patience, and forgiveness.
- tell how he or she shares God's love with others.
- define *respect* and *patient*.

Words to Know

respect • *An attitude and understanding that everyone is loved and created by God and should be treated well*

patient • *Being able to deal with problems in a calm, relaxed way*

Bringing the Lesson Home

Determine ahead of time when and where you and your child will engage with the lesson content. Read or complete Side A of the worksheet with your child.

NAME _____

LESSON 3 Friendship and Bullying

I Can Be Loving and Caring

God calls us to show his love to other people. He calls us to **respect** others, or treat them in a way that shows we appreciate them for who they are and shows them we care.

Complete each sentence. Tell how you show love and care for the people in your life.

When I am with my friends, I _____

When my friend is not feeling well, I _____

When I see another child crying, I _____

When I see someone being teased or pushed around, I _____

When I see someone sitting alone at lunch, I _____

I am a good member of my family when I _____

STEP 1 ENGAGE & EXPLORE

SAY: There are many ways you show how much you love and care for others. Take some time to validate the responses your child wrote on the worksheet.

ASK: What are some ways people show that they love and care for you? (Allow your child time to respond.) Talk with your child about how this makes him or her feel. Add that treating people with love and respect shows that we think of them as God's children—our brothers and sisters.

SAY: Sometimes we get upset and don't show others love or respect. When this happens, it is helpful to take a moment to breathe. Talk to God during those times. He will help you let go of bad feelings and open your heart to those around you.



Bringing the Lesson Home *(continued)*

STEP 2 REFLECT & RESPOND

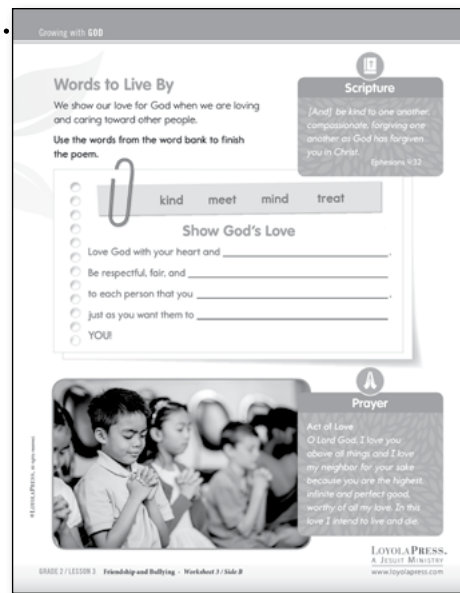
SAY: God calls us to open our hearts to all his children. Do your best to see others the way that God sees you!

Use the “I Can Be Loving and Caring” activity on Side A of the worksheet as an opportunity to relate personal experiences of friendship and invite your child to do likewise.

Read or complete Side B of the worksheet with your child.

SAY: Each person is a unique creation of God. To him each person has great value, so all people deserve to be loved, respected, and appreciated. Reread the poem your child completed on Side B of the worksheet. Use it as a springboard to talk about times when it is easy to show our love and respect as well as times when it is difficult. Support your child in developing ways to cope when they don't feel like showing love or respect. You might do this by sharing personal experiences. You may wish to help your child memorize the poem so he or she can repeat it silently when needed. Alternatively, you and your child could spend time together writing an original poem to use in the same way.

Pray the prayer from the Pray Together feature or a prayer of your own. Begin and end the prayer by praying the Sign of the Cross.



Pray Together

Generous God, thank you
for the gift of friendship that
makes our lives better and
shows us the great value each
of us has as your children.

