

**LESSON 3**  
**Friendship and**  
**Bullying**



**Growing with GOD™**  
*Safe and Sacred*

**In This Lesson**

**For You**                      **Pages 1–2**

- The Gift of Friendship
- 3-Minute Retreat
- Lead Your Child to Grow with God
- Safe and Sacred at Home

**For You and Your Child**                      **Pages 3–4**

- With Your Child: Bringing the Lesson Home
- Pray Together



**What the Church Says About**

*The Gift of Friendship*

Our Lord especially appreciates those who find joy in the happiness of others.

Pope Francis,  
*Amoris Laetitia*, 110 (2016)

**The Gift of Friendship**

Parents want nothing but positive and nurturing relational experiences for our children. In a perfect world, all people would be inclusive in their speech and actions. Everyone would seek to widen his or her circle of friendship.



Each person would remember that God is our heavenly Father and that we are all brothers and sisters. Humans are far from perfect, however, and often fall short of treating each other as God’s children.

During fifth grade, children are often concerned with fitting in with their friends. This is natural, but it can lead to undue stress if children lose sight of what it truly means to be a friend. Remind your child often that friends bring out the best in us, and they don’t ask us to go against our conscience.

**We cannot protect our children from negative experiences with their peers, but we can teach them to recognize true friendship and appreciate it for the gift that it is.**

A true friend is caring, rejoices with us when good things happen for us, supports us when we have a rough time, and inspires us to be better friends ourselves. A true friend carries Jesus inside and shares his love with all.



*For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building.*

1 Corinthians 3:9

### Reflection

Jesus works alongside us each day to carry on with the labor of building his kingdom. He lives within us and among us to help us further God's plan. His presence within us helps us to see his light and love in others and to welcome all God's children with the sincerity and warmth of our Lord.

### Questions

What can I do to more faithfully seek the presence of Christ in and around me? What can I do today that demonstrates my commitment to carry on the work of building God's kingdom?



### Prayer

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

*Thank you, Jesus, for calling me to be a coworker in the field of love.*

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

**Spiritual** Help your child make a habit of looking for the presence of Jesus in those around him or her. When you see the light of God's love in others, say so aloud, and talk about how following the example of Jesus in this way brings us closer to him.



**Social** Discuss with your child that God is always with us, and look for God's grace in the words and actions of others. Help children understand that they are called to be instruments of God's peace and grace in their interactions with others.

**Physical** Fifth-graders have lots of energy and are experiencing new physical growth and competence. Perhaps an elderly neighbor could use a helping hand with yard work, or maybe someone who is ill needs someone to walk the dog. Encourage your child to do physical work, with your supervision or assistance, to show he or she values others as brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Safe and Sacred at Home



*The Joy of Discipleship* (Loyola Press)  
by Pope Francis

Let us remember the three key phrases for living in peace and joy in the family: "May I?" "Thank you," and "Sorry." In our family, when we are not intrusive and ask, "May I?"; in our family, when we are not selfish and learn to say, "Thank you"; and when in a family one realizes he has done something wrong and knows how to say, "I'm sorry"—in such a family there are peace and joy.

## Big Ideas

In Lesson 3, your child will:

- identify common bullying behaviors and develop anti-bullying values and practices.
- demonstrate understanding of what it means to be inclusive in relationships.
- recognize that we are all brothers and sisters under God.
- define *inclusive*.

### Word to Know

**inclusive** · *The quality of involving or including all people*

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Growing with GOD  
Safe and Sound

LESSON 3 Friendship and Bullying

**Bullying Behavior and Friendship**  
Think of words or phrases that describe the qualities of bullying behavior and friendship. Write each word or phrase under the Bullying or Friendship heading on the chart. When you finish, reflect on some of your actions and consider how you can be more of a buddy to your friends. Then complete the sentence below the chart.

Bullying	Friendship

I can be more of a buddy by \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE 5 / LESSON 3 Friendship and Bullying - Worksheet 3 / Side A

### STEP 1 ENGAGE & EXPLORE

Over the years, you have watched your child grow and develop relationships with family, classmates, teachers, and others. As your child grows and gains more independence, it's more important than ever to be sure your child knows the difference between friendship and bullying.



**SAY:** In your life, you're going to meet people who have behaviors that fall into the "bullying" category. It's important to know that you can treat everyone in a friendly way even though sometimes they make bad choices. It's equally as important to know that when someone treats you poorly or unkindly, or makes you feel uncomfortable or bad, it's best to tell a trusted adult so that, together, we can find a solution.

Have an open discussion with your child about ways to be friendly to others but also stay safe. Children need to know when a trusted adult needs to step in and get involved in a potentially dangerous situation.

**SAY:** My hope for you is that you share the love of Jesus with others simply by offering your friendship, and I hope others do the same for you.

# Bringing the Lesson Home *(continued)*

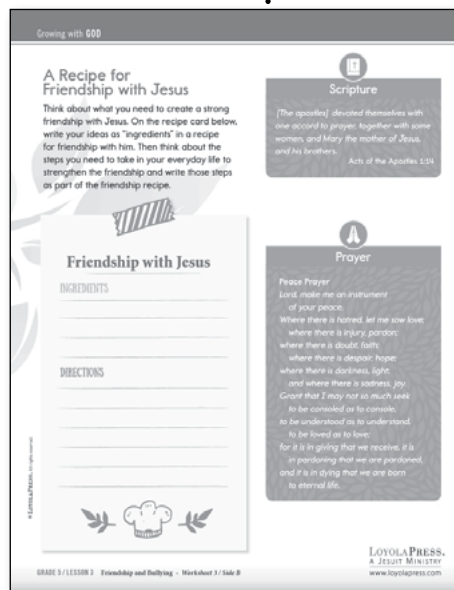
## STEP 2 REFLECT & RESPOND

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

**SAY:** God is our heavenly Father, and each person he creates has the same infinite value. Jesus demonstrated this in the way he lived.

Take some time to discuss with your child a time when someone treated him or her with kindness and respect when it was unexpected. Then share a time when that was done for you. Discuss the effects that had, and point out how every relationship we have brings us closer to who God calls us to be.

Pray the prayer from the Pray Together feature or one of your own. Begin and end the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.



### Pray Together

Generous God, thank you for the gift of friendship that enriches our lives and reminds us of the infinite value each of us has as your child.

Scan this code and guide your child through a simple review of the lesson.

