

Keeping Children Safe /Grade 5 – Week Two -- Large Group

Greeting Introduce yourself. Welcome parents.

OPENING PRAYER Genesis 1:1—2:3 [Slides 1-12]
The Word of the Lord.

ALL Respond Thanks be to God. Amen

Begin by saying Began our time together with this reading from Genesis because I want you to understand that because you are created by God with great love, God is very much concerned with your well being and safety. Sometimes when young people do not feel safe, they do not know that anyone cares whether they are safe or not. We want you to know that God cares a great deal and wants adults in your life to help you to stay safe as you grow up.

PART ONE REVIEW WEEK ONE

SAY Last week you began talking about your own personal safety. Now that you are getting older, you are going to be on your own more and more. So being able to make **safe** decisions becomes more and more important.
Let's review some of those rules.

Show Slide 13 "Safety in Public Places –Adult Help
Let's remind ourselves about some of the important rules involving parents or those adults who care for us, about going out with friends (*Show rules one at a time*)

Slide 14 "Safety in Public Places – YOUR Role

SAY Another Safety Rule that you talked about was "Telling." This rule is very important for young people because "Telling on someone" is often hard to do. Children learn very early on – not from their parents, but from other children – that "telling on someone" is not good. So very often young people are reluctant to tell on someone, even when they know that something is very wrong.
The most important thing that I want you to understand today, that regardless of what you believed before, there are times when you absolutely **CAN** tell.
And then there are these rules, which most of you already know about telling

Show Slide 15 3 D's for Telling

PART TWO PERSONAL SAFETY

SAY There are other kinds of situations where telling is very important. I am going to read you a story about a young person about your age who found herself in a troublesome situation. Now the main character in this story is a girl, but this is a situation that could happen to any young person—boy or girl.

Read the Story Slides 16-21 Show the slides with the story.

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SAY

I am supposed to ask you “What did Nickie do that was wrong to get herself in this situation?” But I would rather just tell you that Nickie did NOTHING wrong. When a young person finds themselves in this kind of situation, or worse, it is NEVER their fault!

In many situations where an adult or older child is behaving inappropriately with a younger child, that older person is **known** to the child. Because there is already a relationship, the older person usually does not use force.

And because the person is known to the child, the child may find it difficult to report the situation.

What are some ways that an adult might use to get a child to cooperate?
[Affection, bribes, threats, friendship, gifts, etc.]

SAY

Is it ever okay for a child to say “No” to an adult? *(It is always okay for a child to say “No” to an adult who is behaving inappropriately).*

Who remembers from last year the Personal Safety Rules?

Show Slide 22

Personal Safety Rules

SAY

Just like Nickie in the story, it is important to tell someone if you or a friend have a problem with unwanted or inappropriate behavior, so that you can get help for yourself or for your friend. Most of the people you know are kind, caring people who would like to help you if you have a problem. At the end of our session today, you will be given a worksheet to take home. You and your parents or another adult that you trust, should make a list of people that could help you if you had a problem. With their help, fill out your worksheet with the names and phone numbers of people you could go to for help.

SAY

Sometimes a young person has been enduring an inappropriate situation, occurring over and over and they have never told anyone. What are some reasons that a child might not tell about someone like that?

[They are afraid of the person. They think no one will believe them. They feel like it is their fault and they are ashamed for not telling before].

I will tell you this again so that you will know it for yourself and you will be able to help a friend in a situation like this:

Abuse is NEVER the fault of the child! No matter what anybody tells you—no matter how long it has been going on—no matter that the child even enjoyed the attention in the beginning!

It is NEVER the fault of the child. You can always tell—You can always help a **friend** to tell.

Show Slide 23
and SAY

When you are in a complicated situation and you feel like you need to take some action that will be difficult and even a little scary, remember that you are not alone. God is always with us and we can say a prayer, and invite God in to help us.

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Sometimes people think that God should just make all bad things go away, but that is not God's job – that is not how God works. God works through us. We are God's arms and legs. So when we are faced with a difficult situation, we can invite God to help us. But remember that most of the time the help we will get from God is the courage and strength to do a difficult task.

**Show Slide 24
SAY**

CLOSURE

Over the past two weeks we have been talking about ways to keep ourselves safe when we are on our own. We have discussed tricks that may be used to get us into unsafe situations. You have also talked about how to respond to inappropriate touch by adults. I hope you will always remember to follow the safety rules that you have learned.

Most importantly, there are many adults who care about you and want you to be safe. If you need help in an unsafe situation, when you are out on your own or feel like you are getting inappropriate attention from an older person, always tell a caring adult.

**Closing Prayer
Slides 25-27
Slide 28**

Psalm 91
Music CD "Be With Me Lord"
We are Precious to God.