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## **Grade Six Safe Environment Lesson**

### **Outcomes**

The learner will be able to:

- ✓ Identify potentially dangerous situations.
- ✓ Name ways to steer away from potentially dangerous situations.
- ✓ Dramatize scripture passages that illustrate God's love and care for all people.
- ✓ Apply lessons from scripture to daily living, especially ways to treat others.

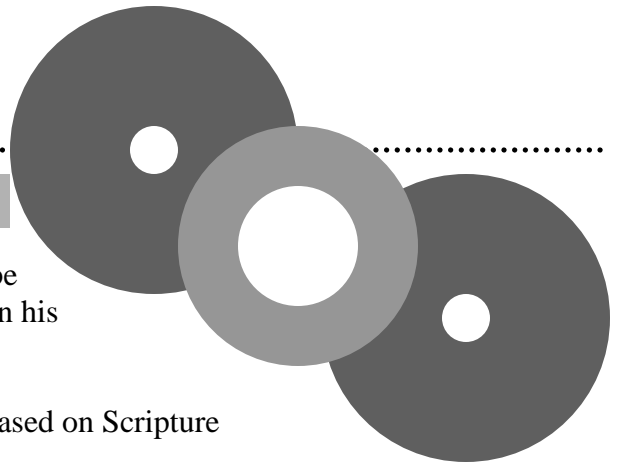
### **Part One**

1. Welcome the students and explain that this lesson is about personal safety.
2. Brainstorm with the class a list of situations that they feel could be scary, uncomfortable or potentially dangerous for people their age. Write their responses on the board.
3. Present the following material in your own words:
  - Most adults care about you and want to help you.
  - Sometimes an adult makes bad choices and does not treat you in a way that respects who you are.
  - Be able to identify the adults in your life whom you can trust (Ask who these adults are and why students trust them).
  - Be able to name the places where you feel safe (Ask students to name these places and explain why they are safe).
  - When you feel uncomfortable in a situation, trust the feeling.
  - Find a way to get out of an uncomfortable situation: Say NO as loud as you can; GO away as fast as you can; TELL an adult you trust right away. Keep telling until someone listens.
  - Don't let anyone, adults or friends, talk you into doing something that you know is wrong or that you feel uncomfortable doing.
  - Respect yourself and others.

After your presentation, ask if the students have any questions. Reinforce the “No, Go, Tell” strategy.

### **Gather the following items for this lesson:**

- Pens for each student
- Writing paper for each student
- Scripture passages for skits (included-pages 4-8)
- Bible for prayer
- Copy of prayer for each student (included-page 3)
- Bibles; one for each small group
- CD player/CD with instrumental music (suggestion—*The Quiet* by J.M. Talbot)



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**Part Two**

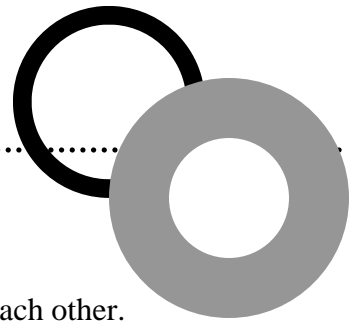
1. Discuss with the class that all people deserve to be treated with respect because God has created us in his image and likeness and we are good.
2. Divide the students into groups to prepare skits based on Scripture passages.
3. Distribute Bibles, pens, and paper to each small group.
4. Explain that each group will be assigned a Scripture passage that illustrates God's care for all people and how God wants human beings to treat each other. (See the passages included in this lesson.)
5. Give the groups 15 minutes to read the passage they have been given and to decide how they will present it to the rest of the class. Encourage them to assign parts to all group members and to write out a script for their skit.
6. Invite the groups to present their skits to the class. Review the message in each skit as they finish. With the group's input, summarize the message in one sentence and have one group member write it down. This will be used during prayer.
7. Review with the whole group the message of Scripture – our human dignity is based on God's love for each one of us. We deserve to be treated as God's children and we are called to treat others in the same way. We are responsible for each other.

**Part Three**

Closing Prayer: "God Calls Us His Friends."

Preparation for prayer:

- Assign or ask for a volunteer to read John 15: 12-17.
- Assign or ask for volunteers to lead and read the intercessions.
- Assign or ask one person from each small group to share a one sentence summary of the message of their skit during the prayer.



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## God Calls Us His Friends

### Call to Prayer

God cares for all people. We are God's children, and sisters and brothers to each other. Let us remember this special relationship of love that God has with us and that we are called to care for and love one another.

**Reading** John 15: 12-17

**Quiet Time** (Play some background instrumental music)

After a brief period of silence, a representative from each group offers the message of their skit. Allow for a few moments of silence in between each message for reflection.

### Intercessions

*Leader* Our response is "Lord, hear our prayer."  
Let us pray for the needs of our world.

*Reader* For Pope Francis and all church leaders  
that their example will inspire us to care for those in need,  
let us pray to the Lord...

For world leaders  
that they will work harder to free  
all those unjustly accused and in prison,  
let us pray to the Lord...

For community and social workers  
that they will find new ways for us to work with them  
to care for homeless and hungry people,  
let us pray to the Lord...

For presidents of corporations and companies  
that they will work to create jobs and help care for the unemployed,  
let us pray to the Lord...

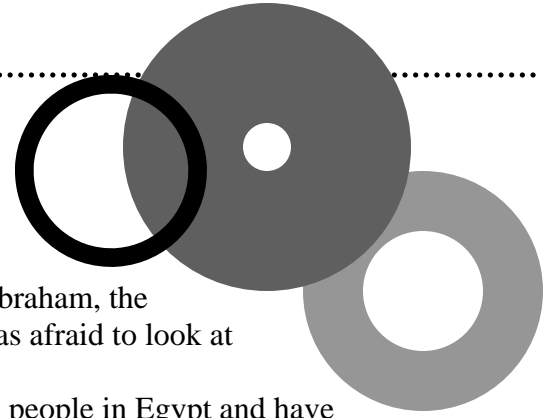
For each of us  
that God's Spirit of compassion will help us  
to care for all people, especially the physically, mentally,  
and emotionally challenged,  
let us pray to the Lord...

*Leader* God, you are our loving Father and we are your children.  
We know you listen to our prayers. Give us the gift of courage  
to work with you and each other to care for all people. Amen.

Close by praying the *Our Father*.

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## **Scripture Passages for Skits**

### **Exodus 3: 6-8a**

6 I am the God of your father," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 But the LORD said, "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering.

8 Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land...

### **1 Samuel 3-13a**

3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I myself will tell you what to do; you are to anoint for me the one I point out to you."

4 Samuel did as the LORD had commanded him. When he entered Bethlehem, the elders of the city came trembling to meet him and inquired, "Is your visit peaceful, O seer?"

5 He replied: "Yes! I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. So cleanse yourselves and join me today for the banquet." He also had Jesse and his sons cleanse themselves and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 As they came, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is here before him."

7 But the LORD said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and presented him before Samuel, who said, "The Lord has not chosen him."

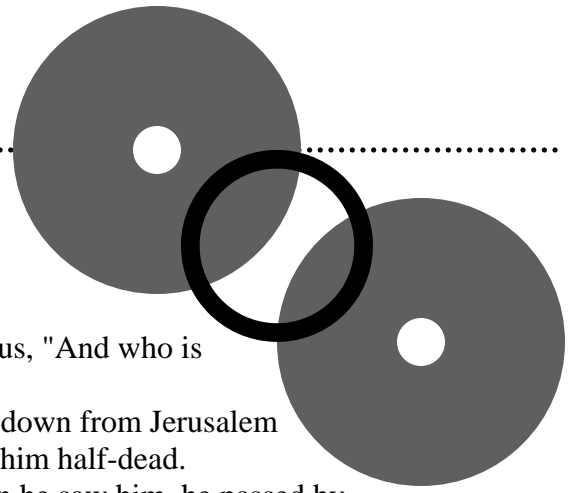
9 Next Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

10 In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any one of these."

11 Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here."

12 Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, "There-anoint him, for this is he!"

13 Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.



## Scripture Passages for Skits

### Luke 10:29-37

29 But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.

31 A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

32 Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

33 But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.

34 He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.

35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.'

36 Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"

37 He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

### Matthew 25: 31-40

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne,

32 and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

33 He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me,

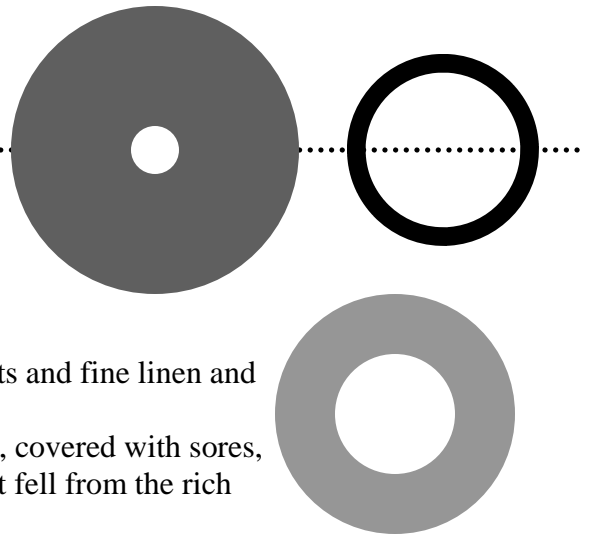
36 naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

37 Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

38 When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?

39 When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

40 And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'



## Scripture Passages for Skits

### Luke 16: 19-29

19 "There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day.

20 And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,

21 who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.

22 When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried,

23 and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

24 And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.'

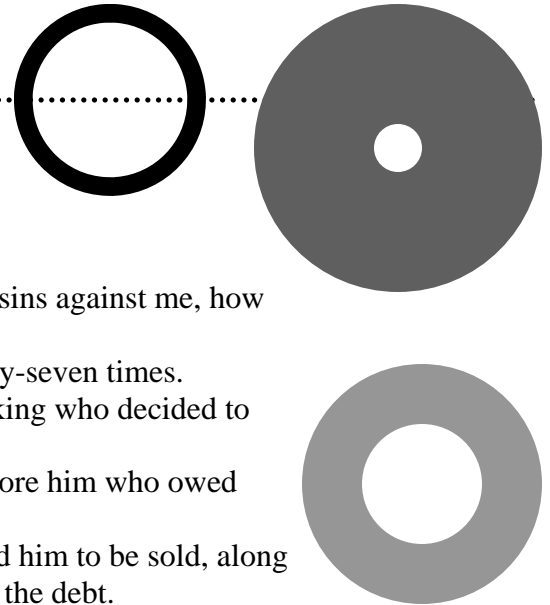
25 Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.

26 Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.'

27 He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house,

28 for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.'

29 But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.'



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## Scripture Passages for Skits

### Matthew 18: 21-35

21 Then Peter approaching asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

22 Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

23 That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants.

24 When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount.

25 Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.

26 At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.'

27 Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.

28 When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.'

29 Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

30 But he refused. Instead, he had him put in prison until he paid back the debt.

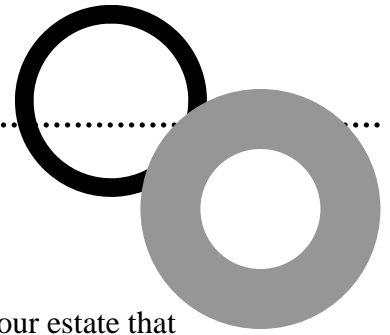
31 Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair.

32 His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to.

33 Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?'

34 Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt.

35 So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart."



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## Scripture Passages for Skits

### Luke 15: 11-32

11 Then he said, "A man had two sons,

12 and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them.

13 After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.

14 When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need.

15 So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine.

16 And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.

17 Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger.

18 I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

19 I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.'"

20 So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.

21 His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

22 But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast,

24 because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began.

25 Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing.

26 He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean.

27 The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him.

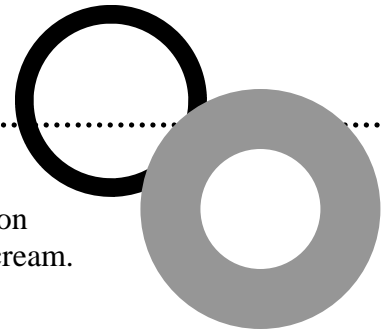
29 He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends.

30 But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.'

31 He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours.

32 But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"





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## Take Home Page

Try to find a comfortable place away from your house to have a conversation with your child. Go for a walk, go to the park, or get a soda or go for ice cream.

In conversation with your child, recall concepts that your child has learned from you, from religion class, from school, and in the media regarding **basic safety**. Evaluate your child's understanding of potential danger for people her/his age and what to do about it.

- ✓ Identify actual uncomfortable situations and specifically what to do about each. How can you identify a safe place? Safe people? Safe procedures? Ask them to explain to you the “NO, GO, TELL” strategy they have learned.
- ✓ What is the child's responsibility when confronted with someone or something that he/she knows is wrong? Remember that a sixth grader is still a child and it's not advisable to overwhelm them with the burden of responsibility.
- ✓ In class we have discussed that basically, people are good. All of us, at all ages, sometimes make poor and even bad choices. God has created us in His own image and likeness and we are good.
- ✓ Respect is important. How is respect practiced in your family? Reinforce the importance of respecting oneself. God cares for all people and wants human beings to treat each other with respect. We deserve to be treated as God's children and we are called to treat others in the same way.

Optional: Scripture passages that demonstrate God's love and that the dignity of human beings is based on that.

Matthew 18:21-35, Matthew 25:31-40

Luke 10: 29-37, Luke 15:11-32, Luke 16:19-29