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|  | <p>Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston</p> <p>Safe Environment</p> <p>6th Grade Lesson Plan</p> |
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Lesson Objective: To help 6th graders identify the lures and tricks others can use on the Internet. To develop skills to avoid being victimized by Internet predators.

Goals: Children will learn

1. to recognize God’s care for us and desire for us to be safe.
2. to recognize and respond to threats to personal boundaries.
3. to develop responses to protect oneself from persons, especially on the Internet, who try to violate personal and relational boundaries.

- **The lesson is approximately 60 minutes.**

Materials needed: Bible, Handouts and pencils for each participant

Safe Environment 6th Grade Lesson Plan

Introduction and Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

State: God has made each of you in his loving image. He has blessed you with family and friends who love you and work to keep you safe. Today you will examine ways the Internet can help you grow as a disciple of Jesus as well as ways that it can harm you. You will learn some rules to stay safe and to protect yourself from persons who may want to harm you especially in regards to the internet usage.

Maintaining Healthy Boundaries

Opening Prayer:

Say: “God has made each one of you very special.”

Read Genesis 1:27, 31

“God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them... God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good”

Read Psalm 139:1, 14

“Lord, you have probed me, you know me; you know me when I sit and when I stand; you understand my thoughts from afar... I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works!”

Say: “The Bible tells that God created people in his image, or like himself. That does not mean we look like God, but we are like God in other ways. We can think, make choices, and show love. People are special to God because we can have a relationship with God. When God finished creating people, God said all he had made was very good. God knows every part of you from inside out because God created you. He loves you and wants you to know and obey him.”

Pray: “O, Lord, thank you for making me, my family and friends so special. Thank you for the gift of life. Amen.”

Opening Activity: (5 minutes)

What does it mean to be created in God’s image?

Possible responses: Humans can think, love, freely choose

What do these Bible verses tell you about what you mean to God?

Possible responses: God said we were good. God knows every detail about us including every thought.

Part One: Stay Safe (15 minutes)

Distribute Handout 1: “How to Stay Safe” to each person. **Read** each one aloud. **Check** for any clarification.

Tell the youth that you want to ask them to put the safety rules into action by responding to each of the following “What If” scenes. Then, in a large group review their responses to each of the scenarios in light of the safety rules. Redirect, when necessary, to this handout.

What would you do if...

...your brother’s friend gave you \$20, but said to keep it a secret from your parents?

Catechist suggested clarification: There is a big difference between surprises and secrets. Surprises are kept quiet for a short time and when everyone finds out about the surprise they are happy—like a surprise birthday party. Secrets are something you are asked to keep quiet about for a long time, maybe even forever. Sometimes a secret might not seem like a big deal. You should never be asked to keep a secret from your parent. If someone asks you to keep any kind of a secret from your parents, tell an adult you trust right away.

...your neighbor offered you a ride home from school so that you don’t have to walk?

Catechist suggested clarification: You should always check first with your parent or caregiver before going anywhere with anyone—even if you know them. A good idea is to make a special code word that only your family knows, like “popcorn.” Don’t go with anyone who doesn’t know the code word.

...you notice that someone has been watching you and your friends play at the park and that makes you feel scared?

Catechist suggested clarification: Always trust your feelings or your gut instinct as well as what you have learned about staying safe. Leave the park right away and tell a trusted adult what happened. Tell your parents and the parents of any kids you’re playing with that you have left the park and where you are playing now.

Part Two: Stay Safe and the Internet (15 minutes)

Ask how many of the youth have had experience with using the Internet. What sort of things activities do they do on-line?

Have them look at **Handout 2: “Stay Safe on the Internet”** and read each point aloud.

Ask the youth to respond to each of the following “What If” scenes.

What would you do if...

...a peer you meet online invites you to meet with him/her at the mall?

Clarification: You should always get permission if you want to meet a friend from online in the real world. If your parent gives you permission, you should take your parent or other trusted adult with you when you meet him or her for the first time. Keep your first meeting in a public place and do not go to a second location. Remember the rules of Internet safety. Listen to your gut. If anything about the meeting feels uncomfortable or wrong, leave right away. Have an emergency phone contact on hand.

...you receive a message from someone who claims to be a friend of a friend. How do you respond?

Clarification: Do not answer the message. Do not delete the message. Tell your parent about the contact. With your parent, ask your friend if he or she knows this person and where they may know him or her. Strangers may try to make friends with you by pretending to be someone they are not.

...someone sent you a picture on the Internet that made you feel uncomfortable?

Clarification: Don’t delete the email or chat, just turn off your monitor and tell your parent or caregiver about what you’ve seen. Never respond to offensive or dangerous online message. An adult can tell law enforcement about the situation.

Part Three: God and the Internet (20 minutes)

Say: “At the beginning of this session, we prayed with two scripture verses, one from Genesis and one from Psalm 139 about how God made each of you very special. How might your awareness of God’s care help you to use the Internet?”

Possible responses: God cares about every detail of your actions so He cares about what you view or say and how you treat others on the Internet; God wants you to think and make loving choices with Internet usage.

Divide the class into small groups and ask each group to create two lists.

Say: “Using your handout, first, identify how the internet can help you to become a closer follower of Christ. Second, create a list how the Internet can harm you and lead you away from being a follower of Christ.” Give them 10 minutes.

Ask them to share their lists. Clarify answers based on the Internet Safety practices.

Closing Prayer: Distribute Handout 3

Saint George, Feast day: April 23 (died 303)

Read the following: Pictures of St. George usually show him killing a dragon to rescue a beautiful lady. The dragon stands for wickedness. The lady stands for God's holy truth. St. George was a brave martyr who was victorious over the devil.

He was a soldier in the army of the Roman Emperor Diocletian, and he was one of the Emperor's favorite soldiers. Now Diocletian was a pagan and a bitter enemy to the Christians. He put to death every Christian he could find. George was a brave Christian, a real soldier of Christ. Without fear, he went to the Emperor and sternly scolded him for being so cruel. Then he gave up his position in the Roman army. For this he was tortured in many terrible ways and finally beheaded.

So boldly daring and so cheerful was St. George in declaring his Faith and in dying for it that Christians felt courage when they heard about it. Many songs and poems were written about this martyr. Soldiers, especially, have always been devoted to him.

All: “Lord, you create each of us to be special. We look to the courage of your servant, St. George, to be a model for us when we face difficult times in our lives. Help us to become better followers of Christ and to treat others as your special children. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.”

