

LESSON SUGGESTION FOR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Objective: To help youth recognize lures used by those who sexually victimize others via the anonymity of the Internet. To give young teens skills to avoid being victimized by internet sexual predators.

Opening Prayer: "I have formed you and I know you," says the Lord. (Psalm 139)

Reflect on God who knows us better than anyone and calls us by name.

No one is anonymous to God.

Part I (15 min): Watching Out While Having Fun

Ask young people what are some things they like to do for fun?

When we decide to do something for fun, we tend to just do it and only think about the fun it will be. Rarely, if ever, do we think about the dangers that something fun might hold. For example, we think that rollerblading is fun, and it is! But it's more fun when we are aware of and prepare for the dangers inherent in rollerblading. We need to know how to stop, what protective gear to wear, etc. If so, it can be great fun.

What are some of the dangers to be aware of in the things you mentioned above? How many of you think surfing the net and meeting people online is fun?

Part II (20-25 min): Internet Safety Scenarios

Divide the group into three and give each group one of the following scenarios to talk about. Call the group back together after about 5 minutes to report on what they said.

A) You create a screen name by using your first name, last initial and birth date to make it easy for you to remember. It is easy to remember, but is this screen name a good idea? Why or Why not?

B) You are in a chat room and someone starts to talk to you. She says she is your age and lives in a nearby town. At the end of a long conversation, she says she wants to meet with you. You really want to make some new friends and are interested in meeting her. What do you do?

C) You are creating your own website. You want to make it in your personal style. What information should you put on it and what should you avoid putting on it?

If the young people come up with ideas for internet safety, affirm them, then mention the others they did not come up with. Review some of the dangers and lures that predators use via the anonymity of the internet (see Appendix).



Part III (15 min): Using the Internet Safely

Ask young people to come up with some “Ten Commandments” for online safety. Then fill in what they missed. Talk about the importance of parents in helping them to avoid the dangers of the Internet and to keep their online use safe and fun!