



LESSON SUGGESTION FOR MIDDLE GRADE STUDENTS

Objective: To help children recognize the lures used by those who sexually victimize children. To give children strategies for keeping from being tricked into uncomfortable and dangerous situations.

Opening Prayer: Use an appropriate scripture reading, psalm or prayer that speaks of God's care for us, or God's protection of us. For example: Psalm 23 or an adaptation of "The Lord is My Shepherd".

Part I (10 min): Identifying Safe People in our Lives

Begin by asking the children, "Who are the adults that make you feel safe?" (Try not to get generic categories, like "teachers," "parents," etc. Instead encourage them to name folks - Mom, Mrs. Brown, etc.). Continue by asking, "What do they do to make you feel safe?"

After they process the first two questions, tell children that most adults want us to be safe and try to protect us, but sometimes there are people that do not make us feel safe and protected, and make us feel uncomfortable. "What are some things people say or do to make us uncomfortable?"

You may get a variety of responses, but zero in on or prompt responses around unwelcome affection (over-tickling, forced kissing), uncomfortable touches, verbal control, being alone with someone, being tricked into doing something you don't want to do...

Part II (20-25 min): Identifying Lures

Today we are going to learn to recognize people who cannot be trusted to keep you safe or try to trick you into situations that make you uncomfortable. Ask, "Are these persons always strangers?" Affirm that often these "tricky" people are known to you and try to get you to like or trust them first. The ways they do this are called "lures". Do you know what some lures are?

At this point you might show the video, "Tricky People" (see Annotated Resource List) or present common lures used by sexual predators (see Appendix).

Part III (15 min): Responding to Lures

What do you think you would do if someone used one of those lures on you to try to get you into an uncomfortable situation? It is important to follow a few special safety rules for avoiding tricky people with lures (even if they are known to you):

- 1) Know that you always have the right to say "NO" to anyone who makes you feel uncomfortable, even if it is an adult and you were taught to do what adults tell you. You have the right to be respected and tell someone that is what you need. For example, "Uncle Tom, I feel uncomfortable when you keep tickling me. I need you to stop when I say it is enough!" or

“I’m sorry I can’t help you find your lost dog, but my parents do not allow me to go off alone with someone. Maybe you should find an adult to help you.”

2) Tell a trusted person (remember you named some of them in the beginning) when someone makes you feel uncomfortable or when someone tells you to keep a secret about an uncomfortable situation. Even if someone threatens you if you tell, it is important to still tell.

3) Always let a trusted adult know where you are at all times and who you will be with. Never be in a situation where you are alone with a person who makes you feel uncomfortable.

4) Always stay alert! Sometimes we might know what a lure is, but we get involved in the situation and get tricked without realizing it.

Close by asking the children to either name or draw a picture of something new they learned today that would help them stay safe. End with a blessing for God’s protection: “May God’s love surround you and protect you from harm at home, at school and at play. May the Lord bless you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”