

KEEPING GOD'S CHILDREN SAFE LESSON
LEVEL 3

For the Catechist:
Background Information about the Lesson

Scripture Jesus said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not prevent them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then He embraced them and blessed them. (Mark 10: 14-16)

This scripture accentuates Jesus' great love and concern for children. In their innocence and purity, the Kingdom of God is reflected. It also records a "good touch" as Jesus, the Son of God, embraces and blesses His children.

Catechism God fashioned man with his own hands (that is, the Son and the Holy Spirit) and impressed his own form on the flesh he had fashioned, in such a way, that even what was visible might bear divine form...Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #704, #2288)

Guidelines God who is the source of all love revealed the Ten Commandments as the basic moral code for relationships and good living. They are taught at this age as the fundamental guides for a life of love and respect for God, others and self. This safe environment lesson focuses on rules for safe touch and those trusted adults who teach children how to keep safe.

Age Group Children of this age are typically aware of their peers and the world. They understand life as "right and wrong", "fair and unfair". They ask questions about their physical growth and are very influenced by the portrayal of the body in society and the media. It is, therefore, very important that the catechist present a positive Christian perspective on the beauty and dignity of the human body in response to the children's questions. Through instruction and activity, the catechist will also help the children identify trusted adults who can protect them.

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LESSON PLAN

Objectives

- Teach the children a better understanding of touching safety and protecting private body parts.
- Have the children learn and repeat the touching safety rules when a person tries to touch them in an inappropriate manner.
- Strategize appropriate responses to unsafe situations with the children.
- Identify the characteristics of trusted adults and safe friends.

Vocabulary

Rules, out of bounds, inappropriate, appropriate, safe, qualities, trusted adults

Materials

Chalk or poster board with appropriate and inappropriate touches T-chart (page 3)
Qualities of a Trusted Adult worksheet (page 5)
Copies of Ending Prayer (page 6)

LESSON

Opening Prayer

We praise you, God,
For you have made us wonderfully good and in your image and likeness.
Help us always to honor you and respect ourselves and others. Amen.

Instruction

Having taught the Ten Commandments, remind the children that God gave this moral code:

- To teach us respect for self, God and others
- To guide us in forming good relationships with God and others

The review of these faith facts provides a natural transition to the Keeping God's Children Safe Lesson within the Religious Education setting.

Ask the children why it is important to have rules in life?

Who usually teaches you these rules?

Explain to the children that they are going to learn about rules that will keep them safe, especially when people touch you.

Ask the children what the "appropriate" and "inappropriate" mean.

Explain to the children that they are going to learn what appropriate (or safe) and inappropriate (or unsafe) touches are.

On the chalkboard or a poster, draw the T-chart for “Appropriate or Safe Touch” and “Inappropriate or Unsafe Touch”.

APPROPRIATE OR SAFE TOUCH	INAPPROPRIATE OR UNSAFE TOUCH

Read each example below and ask the children to respond, “appropriate/safe” or “inappropriate/unsafe”.

- Your grandmother or grandfather gives you a good-bye kiss. (SAFE)
- Mommy gives you a hug when you wake up. (SAFE)
- A friendly person wants to touch your private body parts.(UNSAFE)
- The stranger behind you in church wants to shake your hand during the sign of peace. (SAFE)
- Your doctor wants to check your temperature because your Mom brought you to the doctor’s office because you didn’t feel well. (SAFE)

Add the examples to the chart in the appropriate column if time permits.

Explain to the children that no one has the right to touch them inappropriately or in an unsafe manner. Explain that in their lives there are very few people who have the right to touch their private body parts and only if you are unable to do so for yourself.

Explain to the children that some touches are out of bounds and unsafe, especially if someone tries to or touches their private body parts.

Note to Catechist: In levels 2 and 3 the children learned that private body parts are those which are covered with our bathing suits.

Ask the children how they might tell someone to stop touching them inappropriately even though it might be very difficult.

Explain to the children that they are going to review the rules for safety that they learned in Levels 1 & 2. Ask the children if they remember the rules.

If someone tries to touch your private body parts,

- **NO**--say, “No!” to that person
- **GO**—you go away if someone makes you feel uncomfortable or tries to touch your private body parts. Move away from him/her and try to go to another place.
- **TELL**—a trusted adult if someone tried to touch your private body parts.

Have the children explain ways to say:

- **No...**
Brainstorm with children some other ways to say “NO”.
Write them on the board. Some suggestions/examples are:
“Leave me alone!”; “Get away from me!”; “Stop that!”.
- **GO...**
Brainstorm with the children on how they can move away from this person
and get to a safe place or a trusted adult.
Write answers on board.
- **TELL...**
Give the children a definition for a trusted adult.
A trusted adult is someone who is a safe adult and would never
intentionally hurt, confuse or scare them. A trusted adult is someone who
would help them.

Brainstorm with the children on who are trusted adults.

Activity

Brainstorm with the children the qualities of a trusted adult. Write answers on
chalk or poster board. (Some suggestions: loyal, fair, protective, truthful, kind,
helpful, kind, understanding, patient, etc.)

Ask the children to fill in the circles on the “Qualities of a Trusted Adult”
worksheet with five of the qualities from the list on the chalk or poster board.

Conclusion

Review the Rules of Safety one more time.

No
Go
Tell

Ending Prayer

Leader: Jesus, when you walked this earth you showed that you loved little
children.

Children: Jesus, we know that you love each one of us.

Leader: Jesus, it is hard for us to hear that some people hurt children by their
words and actions and do not treat children with love the way you did.

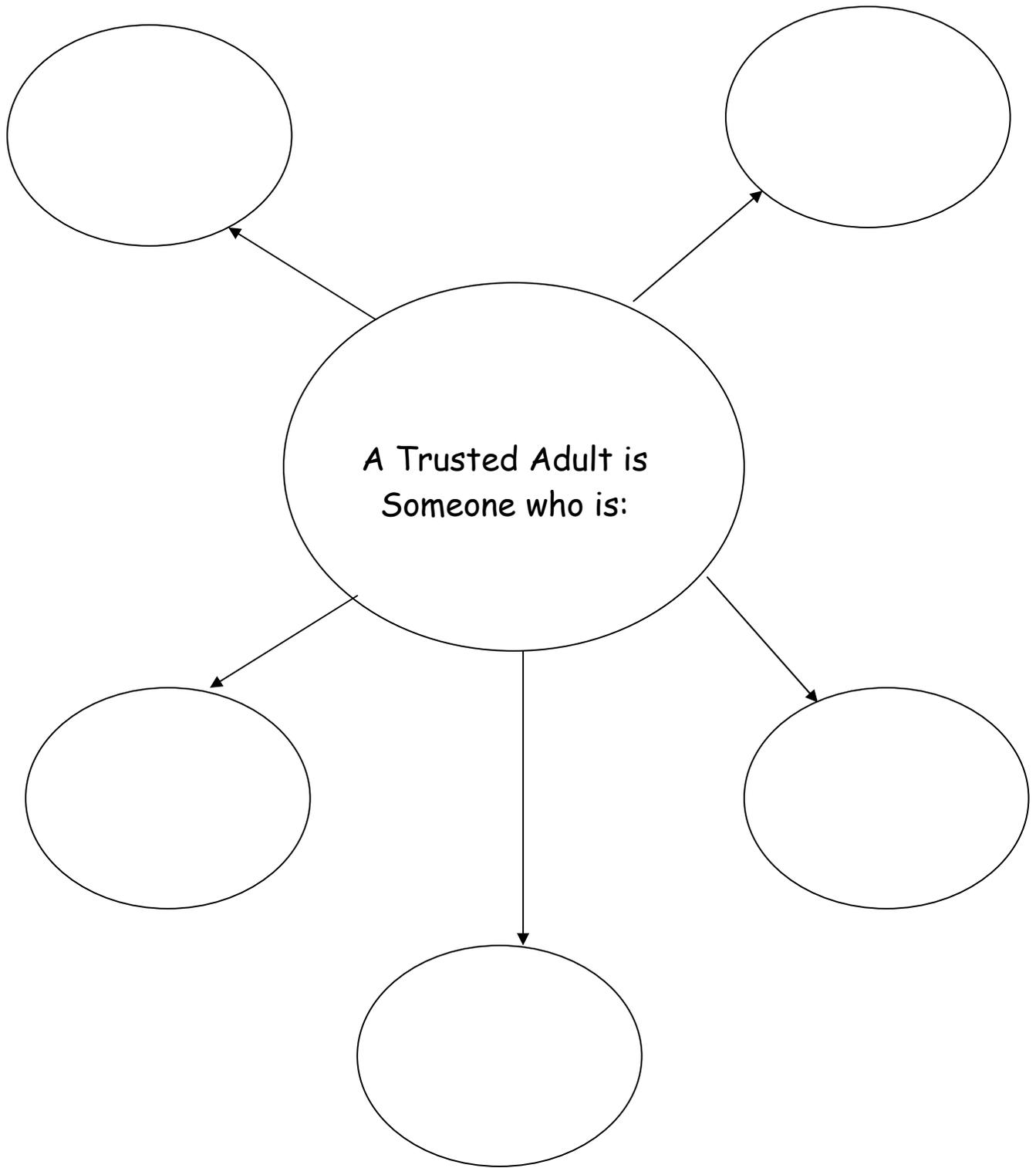
Children: Jesus, we know that you love each one of us.

Leader: Jesus, please help those who hurt others.

Children: Jesus, we know that you love each one of us.

Leader: Jesus, bless our parents, teachers and all those who work to keep us safe.

All: Amen.



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