Each Person Is SACRED

Something that is precious to God is sacred. People are the most sacred of all God’s Creation because God knew us and loved us even before we were born.

What is most precious? To help the children understand the meaning of sacred, ask them to list what is precious to them. Lists will likely include possessions as well as people.

Ask older children their thoughts on why we are important to God. How does that affect the way we live our lives? What can we do to protect the sacredness of all people?

Counter this by discussing abuse. Abuse is never loving. Abuse is usually done because of another’s selfish desires. It violates God’s fifth commandment, “Thou shalt not kill.” Abuse hurts and kills a bit of another’s dignity, sacredness. Here are some examples of abuse.

When someone, or a group of others (bullying):

* Hurts you on purpose, you are not being treated as sacred.
* Follows you, even if you have asked that person not to, you are not being treated as sacred.
* Punishes you by locking you away, or making you do something too hard, you are not being treated as sacred.
* Says untrue things about you, you are not being treated as sacred.
* Convinces you to do something you know isn’t right, you are not being treated as sacred.
* Touches you in places that cover your bathing suit, you are not treated as sacred.
* Doesn’t give you the same chances as others, you are not treated as sacred.
* Asks you to look at pictures that make you uncomfortable, you are not treated as sacred.
* Doesn’t give you the things you need for living, you are not being treated as sacred.

Abuse takes away someone’s freedom to be happy and make good choices. Abuse is never right!

If anyone is ever abusive toward you, it is important to get away and tell someone who will protect you. Don’t be afraid to tell the whole story. If that person doesn’t believe you, tell someone else. Don’t stop until you are with someone who will protect you. It can be painful, but Jesus will be with you. He loves you and wants the pain to stop.

List some people you can tell if you ever think you are being abused.

Remember to thank God for the people and places where you can be safe. God has good plans for you. Never forget that. And as hard as it may be, pray for those who have hurt you. Something went wrong for them and through your prayers God can and does work miracles.