

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM  
DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND  
GRADE 6  
LESSON PLAN & HANDOUTS**

**Discovering God's Purpose for Relationships**

**Time estimate:** 45 minutes

**Session objectives:**

1. Identify different kinds of healthy relationships and the purpose of each one
2. Review the Golden Rule and its applicability to relationships
3. Study scriptural references as related to God's plan for relationships

**Supplies needed:**

Chart paper or chalkboard  
Markers or chalk  
Bible for each student or small group  
Sticky notes prepared with Scripture verses  
**Reflection Questions** (Student Handout 6-1, page 8 of this material) --  
one copy for each student  
Parent letter for take home (page 10 of this material)

*Note: Teacher should read over the **Good Boundaries Script (grades 4-6)**, the safe environment teaching material for grades 4-6, before teaching this lesson.*

**Prayer:** Loving God, open our minds and hearts to you. Help us discover your loving plan for each of our lives – a plan to grow, to learn, to give, to receive and to love in relationships with all our brothers and sisters. Help us to know and live this plan which will lead us to happiness with you forever.

**Review:** For the last several years you have heard your religion teacher (school counselor, DRE, etc.) talk about keeping yourself safe. You may remember it as the sirens talk. Tell me ONE THING you remember about this.

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Draw out the following points:

1. God created us and loves us. God made our bodies.
2. We each have personal space that is to be respected.
3. We should treat ourselves and others with respect and care (Golden Rule).
4. Some touches are safe, some are unsafe.
5. We have internal warning signs when we are in danger (sirens).
6. If ever in danger, not being respected, being touched in an unsafe way, get away.
7. Get help from an adult. Keep telling and asking until you get the help you need.
8. There are adults in your life to care and protect you.

**Activity 1: (10 minutes)** *On a chalkboard or chart paper, create a T chart with the headings below. Answers are in italics under the headings. Fill in the answers during the discussion.*

Kinds of Relationships	Purpose
<i>God</i>	<i>to know, love and serve; Father, Son &amp; Spirit</i>
<i>Parent (mom, dad)</i>	<i>Love, raise children, teach</i>
<i>Wife, husband, spouse</i>	<i>Love, help grow</i>
<i>Friend</i>	<i>Share</i>
<i>Employer – employee</i>	<i>Supervise, train – work, create product or service</i>
<i>Teacher – student</i>	<i>Teach – learn</i>
<i>Coach</i>	<i>Teach, mentor – learn</i>
<i>Brother – sister</i>	<i>Share, love</i>

Ask the students to brainstorm and list types of relationships and the purpose of each one. *Students may struggle with naming the purpose of some relationships. Allow them to struggle without providing an answer at this time. When the T-chart is complete, discuss the following:*

1. What can you learn about relationships from this activity?

*There are many different kinds of relationships in each of our lives.  
All relationships have a purpose.*

2. What are some of God's teachings about how to behave in relationships?

<i>Gospels, Epistles of St. Paul, scripture</i>	<i>Ten Commandments</i>	<i>Beatitudes</i>
<i>Great Commandment</i>	<i>Golden Rule</i>	

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*Spend 5-10 minutes on this.*

#### **Activity 2: (15 minutes)**

*Prepare 3x3 sticky notes with the following nine scripture verses. Distribute one to each student. If you have more than nine students in your class, make multiple copies of each one or divide students into nine groups. Have the students look up the passage in their bible and place the sticky note on the page and then close it. On the board or chart paper, put the three numbers and titles below. Do not add the verses yet.*

#### **1) How to Treat Others in Relationships**

*vs. 1 -- Luke 6:31*

*vs. 2 -- John 15:11-12*

#### **2) How to Love as Jesus Loves**

*vs. 3 -- John 14:23-24*

*vs. 4 -- John 14:15-21*

*vs. 5 -- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

*vs. 6 -- Colossians 3:12-17*

#### **3) Who to Love?**

*vs. 7 -- Luke 10:25-37*

*vs. 8 -- Luke 6:27-28*

*vs. 9 -- Luke 6:32-35*

*Ask one student to read each verse aloud, beginning with verse one. Ask the questions that correspond with the verse to the entire group. Answers are in italics after the question.*

**Verse one – Luke 6:31** “Do to others as you would have them do for you.”

a) How do you want others to treat you? *(with respect and dignity)*

b) This verse is sometimes called the Golden Rule. Why do you think it is called this? *(Gold is a precious metal; it is often valued more than others. As such this rule from our scripture is the most important and valuable in our relationship with others.)*

*Have student put the sticky note on chart under section 1.*

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*Proceed through the other verses and questions, adding the sticky notes to the proper place on the chart and writing the answers for Corinthians and Colossians on the chart paper.*

**Verse two** (John 15: 11-12) "I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."

- a) How does Jesus tell us to treat others? (*Love each other as Jesus loves us.*)
- b) Who can teach us how to love? (*Jesus*)

*Put sticky note under number one on the chart.*

**Verse three** (John 14: 23-24) "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.'"

- a) If you love Jesus, then you will \_\_\_\_\_ him. (*obey*)
- b) If you love Jesus, who will come and be with you? (*God, the Father*)

*Put sticky under number two on chart.*

**Verse four** (John 14: 15-21) "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

- a) Who will show you what is true? (*God's Holy Spirit*)
- b) What does Jesus promise? (*He will not leave us. He will come to us. Vs 18*)
- c) Who will show us what Jesus is like? (*Jesus will. Vs. 21*)

*Put sticky under number two on chart.*

**Verse five** (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8) "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never

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fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.”

a) List at least ten things that St. Paul says love is in this passage.

<i>kind</i>	<i>patient</i>	<i>hopeful</i>
<i>trusting</i>	<i>never jealous</i>	<i>never fails (endures)</i>
<i>unselfish</i>	<i>supportive</i>	<i>loyal</i>
<i>not rude</i>	<i>never pompous (arrogant)</i>	<i>not inflated</i>
<i>doesn't keep a record of wrongs</i>		
<i>slow to anger (not quick tempered)</i>		

*Write the list of ten things on the chart under number two. Put the sticky note there also.*

**Verse six** (Colossians 3: 12-17) “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

a) List ten ways a child of God should show love to others.

<i>be gentle</i>	<i>be forgiving</i>	<i>be kind</i>
<i>be tolerant</i>	<i>be humble</i>	<i>be grateful (thankful)</i>
<i>be meek</i>	<i>be patient</i>	<i>let peace control your thoughts</i>
<i>be compassionate</i>	<i>say or do all things in God's name</i>	

b) Think of the names of two people who treat others in these ways.

*Write the list of ten things on the chart under number two. Put the sticky note there also.*

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**Verse seven** (Luke 10: 25-37) “There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” He said in reply, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” He replied to him, “You answered correctly; do this and you will live.” But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, “Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.” Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robber’s victim?” He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.””

- a) According to this passage, how are we to love God? (*with our whole heart, soul, strength, and mind, Vs. 27*)
- b) According to this passage, how are we to love others? (*as much as we love ourselves, Vs 27*)
- c) According to Jesus, who are our neighbors? (*everyone, even those we hate*)

*Put the sticky note under number three on the chart.*

**Verse eight** (Luke 6: 27-28) “But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

- a) How are we to treat those who curse us or are cruel to us? (*Love our enemies; be good to those who hate us. Ask God to bless those who curse us. Pray for those who are cruel to us.*)

*Put sticky note under number three on chart.*

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**Verse nine** (Luke 6: 32-35) “For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.”

- a) How are we to treat our enemies? *(Be loving and kind to them.)*
- b) Why should we treat them this way? *(Because God will reward us. We will be acting like children of God.)*

*Put sticky note on number three on the chart.*

### Conclusion:

*Pass out to each one the **Reflection Questions** (Student Handout 6-1, page 8 of this material). Give them ten minutes to answer. Together with the students, ask each question. Have one or more students offer an answer. If time is short, focus on questions 4, 5 and 6.*

Today we built upon our safety training. In past years, we taught you about safe and unsafe touches and to tell a trusted adult if someone ever touched you in an unsafe way. This is still true and very important for you to remember. But as you grow older and mature, so will your relationships with others. Your relationships also become more complex. God desires a loving relationship with each one of us. All relationships are important, those with younger people, peers, and older persons. We learned that all types of relationship have specific purposes. God gives us many different kinds of relationships so that we can grow into the children God calls us to be. Relationships are so important that God tells us many places in Scripture about how we are to treat others in these relationships. And God desires that we have many wonderful relationships so that we fulfill God's plan to live with God forever in happiness.

**Optional resource:** *Create “Golden Rulers” for each student to take home. Use yellow construction paper or another type of paper. On one side make the markings of a ruler. On the opposite side, write the Golden rule verse. Template available on the safe environment website.*

**Note:** *Send home a copy of the parent letter (page 10 of this material). Please adapt the letter as necessary to fit your parish/school situation.*

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*End of lesson plan. Handout and parent letter on following pages.*



### **Reflection Questions**

1. What is the Golden Rule: Give one example of how it applies to your life.
2. According to the Scripture verses in the lesson, list five ways in which you are to treat others in relationships. For each way, give an example of someone you will treat this way.
3. According to Jesus, who are we to love? Give specific examples from your life.
4. What is a right relationship?
5. What are the benefits of a right relationship?
6. Who is most difficult for you to love? How can God help you?

**Reflection Questions *with Answers***

1. What is the Golden Rule: Give one example of how it applies to your life.

*Treat others the way that you want to be treated.*

2. According to the Scripture verses in the lesson, list five ways in which you are to treat others in relationships. For each way, give an example of someone you will treat this way.

3. According to Jesus, who are we to love? Give specific examples from your life.

*Everyone, even our enemies*

4. What is a right relationship?

*One that is lived according to God's plan and purpose.*

5. What are the benefits of a right relationship?

*The Holy Spirit will be with us, we will come to know, love and serve God better, and we will have more insight into God's specific plan for each of our lives.*

6. Who is most difficult for you to love? How can God help you?

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Date

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Today your son or daughter in sixth grade participated in a special session at school or religious education. The session, ***Discovering God's Purpose for Relationships***, was the annual safe environment training created especially by our diocese for these students. This session forms the foundation for the training that continues in grades seven and eight, ***Boundaries***. In addition to the basic safety training taught in previous years, today's session helped the students explore the kinds of relationships God wants for them and how appropriate and healthy relationships can help them discover more about God's unique purpose for their lives.

The content of the session included the following points:

- ❖ God desires a loving relationship with each one. God also desires that each one has many wonderful relationships in her/his life.
- ❖ All types of relationship have specific purposes.
- ❖ God gives them many different kinds of relationships so that they can grow into the children God calls them to be.
- ❖ Relationships are so important that many places in Scripture teach about how they are to treat others in relationships.
- ❖ All of this is in order to fulfill God's special plan to live forever with God in happiness.

As your son or daughter grows into adolescence, it can be difficult to speak with them about important things, such as the lessons in today's session. Please make time to talk with them about it. An easy way to start the conversation will be to look over the handout that was used throughout the session. Every student was given a copy to take home. Please contact us if you have any concerns or would like a copy of the handout.

Sincerely,