

Diocese of Richmond

Peacemaking Program – A Spiritual Solution to Prevent Bullying

Creating a school-wide Peacemaker Program is a commitment shared by the administration, teachers, staff, parents and students. A peaceable school culture is based on gospel values that are deeply rooted in all aspects of school life. These are the values that will help to create classrooms and schools that are safe and caring environments where students are able to learn and be more productive.

The Diocesan Peacemaking Program is based on the gospel values of acceptance, generosity, gratitude, joy, courage, honesty, kindness, respect, harmony and self-control. Each month a gospel value is highlighted with scriptural passages and key concepts for discussion.

It is highly recommended that the Principal conducts a monthly recognition ceremony to acknowledge student[s] at each grade level who merit a Peacemaker award. Teachers select student[s] in their classroom and submit a summary of why the student is receiving the award. At the ceremony the Principal or Teacher reads the testimony of the student that has been selected as the PEACEMAKER.

MONTH	GOSPEL VALUE	SCRIPTURE
September	ACCEPTANCE	Luke 5: 27-32 Luke 6: 27-31 Acts 10 Mark 10: 46-52 John 4: 3-42

October

GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Matthew 20: 1-16

Luke 16:19-31

November

GRATITUDE

Luke 15: 11-32

Thessalonians 5:18

Luke 17:11-19

Colossians 3:17

December

Joy

Matt 1:18-24

Matt 2: 1-11

Matt 15:8-10

Acts 8:26-40

January

COURAGE

I Samuel 17

Acts 27: 13-26

Psalms 91

Romans 8:28

February

HONESTY

Acts 5: 1-11

I Kings 22: 1-23

Jeremiah 28

2 Kings 5: 19-27

March

KINDNESS

Luke 5: 17-26

Matthew 6:1-4

Luke 6: 27-36

John 3: 16-18

April

RESPECT

2 Kings 2: 23-25

I Chronicles 29

May

HARMONY

Isaiah 9:6

Luke 2: 13-14

Romans 3: 23

Romans 6:23

Romans 5: 1-2

Mark 10: 35-45

June

SELF-CONTROL

Luke 4:1-13

Titus 2: 1-12

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
MONTHLY VALUES
KEY CONCEPTS AND DISCUSSIONS

ACCEPTANCE:

Luke 10: 25-37 “An unlikely peacemaker”

- How were the four people different from each other?
- Explain how the actions of the Samaritan were extraordinary?
- What does Jesus expect us to do when we know others are in need of our acceptance? Name situations that you encounter to accept others when they are rejected by others.

Luke 5: 27-32 and Luke 6: 27-31 “Elevating the unpopular people”

- Why was Levi unpopular among his people?
- How did Jesus respond to Levi?
- Why did the people think Jesus was wrong?
- In these gospel passages explain how Jesus wants us to love and accept everyone.

Acts 10 “Accepting others who are different”

- Was Cornelius considered different than Peter? In what ways?
- Why did Peter visit Cornelius? What did Peter realize after his visit?

- This scriptural passage teaches us the virtue of accepting others who are different. How should we treat others who are different?

Mark 10: 46-52 “Spiritual Blindness”

- How is Bartimaeus disabled?
- How are disabled people usually treated by others?
- How is Bartimaeus treated by the “crowd”?
- What does the gospel passage teach you about physical blindness and spiritual blindness?

John 4: 3-42 “Accepting someone who lives on the wrong side of town”

- When Jesus encounters the woman at the well, why was she surprised and how did she come to believe in Him?
- In Jesus’ time Jews and Samaritans did not speak to one another, How can you show acceptance for someone who is considered an “outsider”?

GENEROSITY:

2 Corinthians 8: 1-7 “Grace in giving”

- Generosity can be in sharing our overabundance but it also can mean sharing God’s love by forgiving those who hurt or ignore us.
- Have you experienced someone who was generous to you even though you did not deserve it?
- Would you consider sharing with someone who never shared with you?
- What would Jesus do?

Matthew 20: 1-16 “But it is not fair!!!”

- Have you thought that others received more than you and you worked harder?
- What does Jesus say about those who are always looking out for what others get instead of appreciating what they were given?
- Write a modern day version of this gospel message.

Luke 16: 19-31 “Switching places”

- Compare the rich man and Lazarus before and after they died.
- How do you think Jesus wants you to act when you see someone in need?

GRATITUDE:

Luke 15: 11-31 “Gratitude is the attitude of your heart”

- How did the father feel when his son left home?
- Did the father renounce the son who left?
- Why did the father throw a celebration when the son returned?
- Did the son appreciate the father’s actions?
- Why is it important to show gratitude to those around you?

Luke 17: 11-19 “ Where are the other nine?”

- Why were the ten men ousted by the community?
- What did they ask of Jesus?
- What lesson does the scripture story teach you?
- Are there times when you take for granted the kindnesses of others?

- How is gratitude a quality of a peacemaker?

Thessalonians 5:18

“Who is the source of your gifts?”

- What does God want us to do?
- Why should we thank God?

JOY:

Matthew 1:18 - 24

Matthew 2: 1-11

- The announcement of a child’s birth is always joyous. From the accounts in Matthew’s gospel explain how extraordinary was the announcement of Jesus’ birth.
- What message did the angels bring?
- How did the shepherds express their joy?
- How is joy a quality of a peacemaker?

Acts 8: 26-40

“The joy of the Good News”

- What call did Philip receive?
- What did the Ethiopian ask of Philip?
- How did the Ethiopian respond to the message from Philip?
- What did the Ethiopian do after his baptism?
- Knowing that we are called to bring the Good News to others is a reason to be joyful. Explain how you are a witness of joy to others.

Luke 15: 8-10

“A cause for rejoicing!”

- Have you ever lost something of value? What did you do?
- Why do you think the woman cared about a lost coin?
- Why did Jesus tell the story [Luke 15:10]?
- What happens in heaven when we are sorry for not doing the right thing?

John 15: 4-13, 16-17

“Joy is the fruit of the Spirit”

Galatians 5:22-23

- What do tree branches need to grow?
- What does Jesus mean when He says that He is the Vine and we are the branches?
- How can we “remain” in His love?
- What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?
- Explain how love is connected to joy.

COURAGE:

I Samuel 17

“The underdog”

- Did David rely on his own abilities or did he know that God was his source of courage?
- How can you relate to the story of David in your experiences?
- Have you ever been mocked by someone? How did you feel?
- How did David receive his courage?

Acts 27: 13-26 “Trouble at sea”

- When you face a challenge how do you feel?
- When students are in trouble how do you encourage them?

- The word “courage” is as much a part of “encourage” and “discourage”. When others stand by and watch others being bullied, they are called “discouragers”. We have a Christian calling to be encouragers. Explain how you have encouraged someone who has been bullied by others.

Psalm 91 and Romans 8:28 “God gives us a protective shield”

- In Psalm 91 how many ways does God protect us?
- When do we need God’s protection?
- Rewrite Psalm 91 and list ways that God protects you.
- In Romans 8:28 what does God urge you to remember?

HONESTY:

Acts 5: 1-11 “The Big Lie”

- What happened to Ananias and Sapphira?
- What are the consequences of not being honest?
- How is deception a form of lying?
- Explain how you think bullies deceive others?
- How can you act as a peacemaker in being truthful?

Other scriptural passages:

- 1 Kings 22:1-23
- Jeremiah 28
- 2 Kings 5: 19-27

KINDNESS:

Luke 5: 17-26 and Mark 6: 1-4 “Helping the less fortunate”

- Why did the men bring the paralyzed man to Jesus?
- When have you been motivated to act kindly to help someone in need?
- Have you ever helped someone whom you saw was being bullied by others? What did you do?
- Why should you help those in need? Do those who are being bullied need your help? Explain.

Luke 6: 27-36 and John 3: 16-18 “Kindness counts”

- Is it hard or easy to be kind? Explain.
- Did you experience times that you decided not to act in kindness? Explain.
- How did Jesus respond in love?
- Do you know someone who needs you to act kindly toward them?

RESPECT:

2 Kings 2: 23-25 “Why poke fun at another person?”

- Why were others poking fun at Elisha?
- Is teasing others a matter of just “joking around”?
- Have you ever been teased? How did you feel?
- Does God like it when we tease others? Explain.

Other scriptural passages:

- **Isaiah 36-37**
- **Daniel 5 and 1 Samuel 2:30**
- **1 Chronicles 19**

HARMONY:

Mark 10: 35-45 “Brotherly love”

- **What conflict did James and John have?**
- **What was Jesus’ response?**
- **What causes conflict in your life?**
- **Do your words ever cause disagreement with others? Explain.**
- **How can you avoid conflicts?**
- **List ways that you can be more understanding of other’s feelings?**
- **What does it mean to agree to disagree?**

Isaiah 9:6

- **What is the Messiah called?**

Luke 2: 13-14

- **What did the angels announce about His coming?**

Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:1-2

- **What keeps us from being at peace with God?**

I Corinthians 13: 4-7, 11-14

- God wants us to live in peace with one another. Can we do this without His help? Explain.
- Substitute your name each time you read the word “love”. How are these statements a pledge to live as a Peacemaker?
- Name the opposite of what love is...
 - Patient
 - Kind
 - Content
 - Humble
 - Politeness
 - Generous
 - Tolerant

SELF-CONTROL:

Luke 4: 1-13 “Lead us not into temptation”

- What were the temptations that Satan gave to Jesus during His 40 days in the desert?
- How did Jesus resist Satan’s temptations?
- At times we are tempted to have power over those who are vulnerable, especially when we are bystanders when others are being bullied. How can you resist the temptation to be a “part of the crowd” by standing up for a victim of a powerful bully?
- Do the lessons in the gospel stories enable you to have self-control? Explain.

Titus 2:1-12 “Gift of the Holy Spirit – Galatians 5: 22-23

- **When people demean and make fun of others by showing power over them, they are “out of control”. How can you report these actions to an adult to stop out of control behavior?**
- **Why do you think self-control is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit?**
- **Are there times that you know when you have no self-control? In what ways are those actions not pleasing to God?**
- **When are you tempted to lose your control? How can you recover from hurting or offending others?**