

## **Right Relationship Concept: Communication (Primary)**

### **Learning Objectives:**

- To help students understand that God created people and wants them to have safe and loving relationships.
- To instill in students the realization that safe and loving relationships are fostered by good communication.
- To impress on the students that they should feel they can tell secrets to a trusted and caring adult, ideally but not always, a parent.
- To challenge the students to tell parents or other trusted adults if they are treated in a way that makes them feel weird, uncomfortable, worried, or scared.

### **Outline:**

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. God Made People to Need Each Other
- III. God Gave Us Parents and Other Trusted Adults to Care for Us (Core)**
- IV. God Gave Humans Speech So We Can Communicate
- V. Families: Places We Can Communicate (Core)**
- VI. Secrets and Surprises (Core)**
- VII. Closing Prayer

### **Materials Needed:**

- Whiteboard, chalkboard and chalk or flip chart and markers
- Pens, pencils for class members
- Handouts:
  - PreK – 3: “Families Share Feelings”
- Activities:
  - PreK – 3: “Secrets and Surprises”. For this activity, the teacher should write various “surprises” and “secrets” on slips of paper to hand out to the class. Ensure there are more surprises than secrets.
  - “Families Share Feelings”: crayons, markers, or colored pencils

### **I. Opening Prayer** (Psalm 139: 13-14)

*In the + Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

*“You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works, O Lord.” Amen.*

*In the +Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

## **II. God Made People to Need Each Other**

### **Discussion**

- **Ask:** *“Have you ever seen a baby?  
Can babies feed themselves?  
Can they make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?  
Can they dress themselves?  
Who has seen a baby wash her hands or give himself a bath?  
How do babies get something to eat?  
Who takes care of them?  
Who keeps them safe?”*
- From this discussion, lead the children to understand that all people, but especially children and young people, have needs that are met, usually by older people.

## **III. God Gave Us Parents and Other Trusted Adults to Care for Us (Core)**

### **Discussion**

- Ask the children to identify those adults who help them, such as parents and other trusted adults, and to describe the different ways they help them.
- **Say:** *“Babies are born in need of care and protection. As we grow older we can do more things. We need less help but we still need our parents and other trusted adults to keep us safe and help us grow.”*

## **IV. God Gave Humans Speech So We Can Communicate**

### **Discussion**

- **Say:** *“Most of God’s creatures communicate with each other in some way by the sounds they make or the way they act.”* Ask the children to identify some ways animals communicate. Acceptable answers will vary such as ‘dogs by barking’, or ‘birds by chirping’, etc.
- **Ask:** *“How do humans communicate?”* Emphasize that of all of God’s creatures, only human beings were given the gift of speech.

- **Say:** *Human beings can talk to each other. We can tell each other if we are hurt and need help. We can communicate, not only within our families, but with others as well.*

## V. Families: Places We Can Communicate (Core)

Note to teachers: As you discuss families, be sensitive not to emphasize the value of one configuration of family over another configuration.

- **Say:** *Some families are BIG with parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Some families are little: a parent or guardian and a child.*
- *Regardless of size, one of the blessings of family is having someone we trust and feel safe to share our feelings, interests, and activities.*
- *This sharing is also important because it helps our parents and important adults in our life protect and care for us.*
- *As we grow older, we meet other trusted adults, such as teachers, youth or scout leaders, coaches, friend's parents. They also protect and care for us.*
- *To keep us safe, our parents and other adults we trust need to know where we are, who we are with, what is going on, and how we feel about what is happening in our lives.*

## VI. Secrets and Surprises (Core)

### Discussion

- **Ask:** *“Who likes surprises?”* Acceptable answers will vary. **Say:** *“Most everyone enjoys a surprise.”*
- **Ask:** *“What is the difference between a surprise and a secret?”* After the children have expressed their ideas, **Say:** *“A surprise is something good that we wait to share with someone later but a secret is something that we hide from others.”*
- **Say:** *“It’s good to share surprises with our families but we should never keep secrets from our parents or from other adults we trust about things that make us feel weird, uncomfortable, worried or scared.”*

**Say:** *“If someone does something to us or to someone else that makes us feel weird, uncomfortable, worried, or scared, we should continue telling trusted adults until one of them understands how we feel and does something to make us feel comfortable or safe.”*

- **Say:** *“God gave us adults we trust to love and care for us and to protect us from harm. We can share everything with them.”*

## **Activities**

### **PreK - 3:** “Secrets and Surprises” Game

Play like “Giant Step.” Establish a finish line. Depending on the number of students in the class, either have all the children form a line and participate in the game or, in larger classes, select some of the children to “play” and some of the children to “draw” the slips of paper out of a basket. Slips are drawn for each child, in turn. If it’s a “surprise”, the child takes a giant step forward. If it’s a “secret”, the child takes a giant step backward. When the first child reaches the “finish” line, the game is over.

**Examples of Surprises:** Planning a birthday party, buying a special gift, losing a tooth, cleaning your room without being asked.

**Examples of Secrets:** Not telling your father you that you lost a library book; not telling your parents where you were and who you were with; lying to your parents; not telling a trusted adult when someone touches you in a way that makes you feel weird or uncomfortable or when someone hurts you or threatens to hurt you.

### **PreK – 3:** “Families Share Feelings”

Hand out “Families Share Feelings.” Have the children circle the HAPPY people in YELLOW; the SCARED people in ORANGE; the SAD people in BLUE; the ANGRY people in RED; the WORRIED people in PURPLE. Discuss.

## **VII. Closing Prayer**

Pray a litany of thanks for all God’s people using the response: ***“Bless them; we are grateful.”***

*Father, your Spirit speaks to us through your Word to tell us how much you love us and want us to be happy. Please give us the courage to share our feelings with people we trust.*

*In the + Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*