

Lesson 7.4 - Friends: Saying No

Topic: Model for Peace

Subtopic: Saying No

3D. God Guides Us

4D. Conflict Management

Class: Standard VII (Grade 7)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will know how to say NO to friends who tempt them.

**Attitude:** Students will value friends who support them in living as peace makers.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

*Optional:* Songs to teach the class

References: Matthew 4: 17-21

Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:9

Teacher Activities

**Introduction:** *Optional: Open with a song about peace and a prayer.*

Review last week's story by asking questions. Ask students if friends are helpful in avoiding trouble or if friends cause us to get into trouble.

**Bible Story:** Matthew 4:17-21 tells how Jesus gathered friends (disciples) to help him in his ministry.

**Application:** Discuss how friends can be helpful but they also sometimes lead us into trouble. Teach students how to say no.

**Evaluation:** Are students able to share their troubles with someone and encourage one another? Are students able to say no when their friends try to get them to do something wrong?

Student Activities

**Introduction:** Students review how Jesus resisted temptation by using scripture.

Discuss questions about friends. *Answers will vary.*

**Bible Story:** Students listen to the story.

**Application:** Practice saying No by doing roleplays with the teacher.

*Small group discussion*

- Why is it important for us to have good friends?
- When have you had to say no to someone? How did you do it?

*Journal Writing.*

**Evaluation:** In the roleplays, were students able to demonstrate saying no?

**Extension Activities:** *Memory Verse.* Discuss the memory verse. Then start at the back of the room and go around the room having each student say just one word of the verse. Repeat the verse until everyone has had a turn.

*Writing or Drawing.* Have students write a story or draw a cartoon of someone tempting them to do something wrong. Show in the story or cartoon how they would say no. Let them share in small groups.

*Friends.* Tell students to write down five or more things they like about their friends. They may do this alone or as a class. Now have them read through the list and ask themselves, "Does this describe me or not? Am I a good friend?"

## Notes for Teacher

As Jesus began his ministry He also called together men known as Disciples. These friends helped Jesus. Friends can either be helpful or they can cause us trouble.

Sometimes violence happens when a group of young people get together and someone suggests an activity that could lead to conflict. Others go along with the idea without thinking and the idea escalates to violence. Choosing good friends and learning to say, “No,” to friends’ temptations are important for peacemaking.

Key Concept: Friends can either help us or cause us trouble. Sometimes we have to say, “No,” to our friends.

Bible Story: Have a student read Matthew 4:17-21

**As Jesus began His ministry He gathered His twelve disciples to provide a community of fellow believers and peacemakers to help him. These ordinary men responded immediately to Jesus. They were motivated and willing to leave their worldly professions in response to Jesus’ call. The disciples were an important part of Jesus’ ministry. Jesus’ life of faith was not lived in isolation, but as a demonstration of peace in community in the midst of the world.**

**Like Jesus, we are to live in peace and cooperation with the community around us. In community, we can help each other fight temptation and strengthen each other when we feel weak. Together we can find the courage to stand against injustice and unrighteousness which causes conflict.**

Application: Discussion:

- How did Jesus’ Disciples help Him? (companionship; they learned from Him and continued His work when He went back to heaven; they helped Him as He directed)
- How do your friends help you do what is right?
- Do your friends ever try to get you to do something that is wrong? What do you do?

**Having a community of friends who all want peace and will help each other work for it can be very helpful. However, sometimes our friends tempt us to do something we know is wrong. Perhaps they even suggest something that could hurt someone else. We need to choose our friends wisely. Last week we saw how Jesus said NO to the temptations of the Devil. We have to be able to say NO when someone tries to get us to do something we know is wrong. Saying no gets easier with practice. Here are some ways we can say no. (Write these suggestions on the board and give an example of each.)**

- Just say NO. (“NO, I don’t want to.”)
- Offer an alternative activity. (“No, let’s go to my house instead.”)
- “No, but...” (Agree with part of what the person said but refuse to do what they want:” I don’t always get along with that person either but I don’t want to hurt them.”)
- Say no and walk away. (This is sometimes necessary if your friend won’t come with you.)
- Say no and keep talking. (“No, I don’t want to. It sure is a nice day. I like sunny days like this...”)

Invite students to do the following roleplays with you. You will be the friend who wants to get them in trouble because we don't want students to practice doing the wrong thing. Let different students show different ways to say no for each roleplay. Sometimes you might try extra hard to convince them and see if they will keep saying no or walk away or if they give in to pressure.

If students have not done roleplays before explain that in roleplays each person pretends to be a character in a story. They try to think what someone might say or do and make it up as they go along.

- "I have some matches. Let's make a fire behind the building."
- "I see a bike and no one is around. Let's take it for a ride."
- "I found a wallet on the playground. Let's take the money out and go to the market."
- "I know how to pick someone's pocket. You want to learn how?"
- That girl there said something mean to me. Let's go scare her."
- "I have some cigarettes. You want to try them on the way home?"

*Discussion and Journal writing:* Discuss two questions in small groups and then let students write a reflection in their journal.

- Why is it important for us to have good friends?
- When have you had to say no to someone? How did you do it?