

The purpose of this activity is to help young people identify situations that might violate the boundary of their Circle of Grace.

Leaders: Read a scenario to your small group. Give the students 30 seconds to discuss with their parent whether the situation is safe or unsafe and **why**. Then ask the students to hold up their “Safe” or “Unsafe” sign all at once. Try to not let students hold up their sign until everyone is ready to hold them up. Pick a total of 5 scenarios to read to your small group. Be sure to spend a minute discussing what would need to change to make the situation safe/

1. *An older student in your school/youth group program comments about how you are dressed that day while looking at you in a way that makes you uncomfortable. The student asks to take a picture of you with his cell phone.*

Is this situation safe or unsafe? Discuss with your parent.

After 30 seconds or so – ask them to hold up their “Safe” or “Unsafe” sign. Then discuss:

This situation is **unsafe**. What is unsafe here?

- An older student talks about things that make you feel uncomfortable.
- Differences in age and status influence your response.

What would need to change to make this situation safe? (Brainstorm ideas with the young people to address the unsafe circumstances listed above.)

2. One of your coaches thinks you can make the varsity team if you work a little harder on some skills. The coach offers to stay late and work one on one with you to help improve skills after everyone else has gone home.

Is this situation safe or unsafe? Discuss with your parent.

After 30 seconds or so – ask them to hold up their “Safe” or “Unsafe” sign. Then discuss:

This situation is **unsafe**. What is unsafe here?

- An adult arranges to be with a young person alone.
- Does it matter if the coach is a male or female? Why or why not?

What would need to change to make this situation safe? (Brainstorm ideas with the young people to address the unsafe circumstances listed above.)

3. Your best friend confides in you that she tried some beer at a party she attended last week. She says it made her laugh then made her sick. She says it was not a great experience, but she asks you to keep it secret from your parents and hers.

Is this situation safe or unsafe? Discuss with your parent.

After 30 seconds or so – ask them to hold up their “Safe” or “Unsafe” sign. Then discuss:

This situation is **unsafe**. What is unsafe here?

- A young person is asked to keep a secret from an adult.
- The friend is put at risk for future problems.
- The person who provided the alcohol is protected.

What would need to change to make this situation safe? (Brainstorm ideas with the young people to address the unsafe circumstances listed above.)

4. A person you know from the internet wants to meet you at the mall this weekend. You have been communicating on a social network site and texting for six months. Your parents do not know about your internet friend.

Is this situation safe or unsafe? Discuss with your parent.

After 30 seconds or so – ask them to hold up their “Safe” or “Unsafe” sign. Then discuss:

This situation is **unsafe**. What is unsafe here?

- You have never met the person face-to-face.
- You do not really know this person.
- You have no way to verify whatever this person has said.
- You have no way of knowing who else has seen the information that you have shared. They may have cut and pasted the information into a blog or website or shared it with a group of friends.
- This person has your cell number and possibly other personal information because of interacting on a social network site.

What would need to change to make this situation safe? (Brainstorm ideas with the young people to address the unsafe circumstances listed above.)

5. One of the popular church leaders in your parish invites you to a special meeting or trip. The adult leader gives you a permission slip to take to your parents but tells you not to tell other adult leaders in the church because he wants this to be your special time together.

Is this safe or unsafe? Is this situation safe or unsafe? Discuss with your parent.

After 30 seconds or so – ask them to hold up their “Safe” or “Unsafe” sign. Then discuss:

This situation is **confusing and unsafe**. What is unsafe here?

- The adult in this scenario attempts to get the young person to keep a secret from parents or other respected adults. When in a situation like this, you should let your parents and other trusted adults know that this adult leader is telling you to keep a secret from them. Then your parents and other adults who care about you have more information about the situation and can better keep you safe.
- The adult is planning private activities with a young person.

What would need to change to make this situation safe? (Brainstorm ideas with the young people to address the unsafe circumstances listed above.)

6. You are the first one in your family to get home after school. Your adult neighbor, whom you have known since kindergarten, often waves at you and calls on the phone to check on you. One day you hear a funny noise in the house when you are alone. You call your neighbor to ask for help. The neighbor says he and his wife will be over and tells you to call your parents and let them know what is going on.

Is this situation safe or unsafe? Discuss with your parent.

After 30 seconds or so – ask them to hold up their “Safe” or “Unsafe” sign. Then discuss:

This situation is **safe**. Why is it safe?

- It is important to identify trusted adults who are respectful of your Circle of Grace and
- Two adults are coming over and parents are aware of the situation.
- The adult told the young person to notify parents. He did not try to keep it a secret.

7. An instructor at your school invites you and a friend to go to a movie on Friday night. The instructor offers to take you and bring you home. He says he will pay for the movie and the refreshments.

Is this situation safe or unsafe? Discuss with your parent.

After 30 seconds or so – ask them to hold up their “Safe” or “Unsafe” sign. Then discuss:

This situation may be **confusing**. But it is **unsafe**.

- An adult may lure young people into his company with gifts or special information.

What would need to change to make this situation safe? (Brainstorm ideas with the young people to address the unsafe circumstances listed above.)

8. You stay overnight at a friend’s house. After his/her parent’s go to bed, your friend starts to sneak out to go to another friend’s house where there is a party going on. Your friend expects you to go. You don’t want to go. You tell your friend that you feel sick and want to call your parents to come and get you.

Is this situation safe or unsafe? Discuss with your parent.

After 30 seconds or so – ask them to hold up their “Safe” or “Unsafe” sign. Then discuss:

This situation is **unsafe but the young person’s response is safe**. Why?

- The young person has listened to his/her feelings (instincts) that tell him/her not to go to the party.
- The young person states his/her need to call parents.

What would need to change to make this situation safe? (Brainstorm ideas with the young people to address the unsafe circumstances listed above.)

9. You are watching TV with your cousin who is in high school. She puts in a DVD that is R rated. All the adults are upstairs visiting. The DVD you are watching features people who are dressed with very little on. They are dancing in a suggestive manner by themselves and with other people. You know your parents would disapprove but you continue to watch it. She then snuggles up to you and said isn’t this cool?

Is this situation safe or unsafe? Discuss with your parent.

After 30 seconds or so – ask them to hold up their “Safe” or “Unsafe” sign. Then discuss:

This situation is **unsafe**. What is unsafe here?

- Watching shows that feature people being disrespectful to their own Circle of Grace does not help you to respect and protect yours and those of others.
- It is important to know what boundaries you should set for yourself regarding what you watch, read, listen to, etc., when you are alone in order to protect your Circle of Grace.
- When you routinely view images that are inappropriate, you become desensitized to what is safe and unsafe.

What would need to change to make this situation safe? (Brainstorm ideas with the young people to address the unsafe circumstances listed above.)