

Family Faith Formation

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. - Deuteronomy 11:18-19

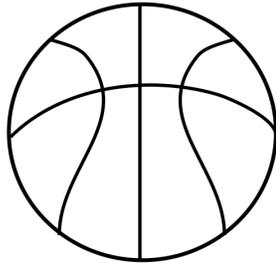
Faith in Real Life: How Do We Treat Others?

Read the following story with your children or grandchildren and discuss the questions together.

It was a typical day at basketball practice. Coach Jones was running his players through some passing drills and then sent the boys out to the hallway to get a quick drink before starting the next set of drills. Before heading to the drinking fountain, Bobby came up to Coach J. and reminded him that he had to leave practice a half an hour early because he had a commitment at church that night.

“No problem, Bobby,” said Coach. “Have a good night, and we will see you at practice tomorrow.”

Later that night, Coach Jones got a call from the parents of another player named Steven who was very upset. They reported that at the game the night before while in the lockerroom, Bobby had called their son a bad name and told him that he was a horrible basketball player. Bobby had used some foul language to describe just how bad he thought Steven was at the sport. They told the coach that Steven had handled it pretty well by making a joke about what Bobby had said, but that it was rather disturbing to them and they thought the coach might like to know how his players treated one another.



Questions for Family Discussion

- Do you see a disconnect between the way that Bobby treated his teammate and the fact that he left practice to go to church?
- What would you say to Bobby if you were the coach (if anything)?
- Read together, **Luke 6:27-36**. What does Jesus say about how we are to treat other people? What did Bobby fail to do when it came to following Jesus’ command? How did Steven actually follow Jesus’ words in this story?
- Discuss a time in your own experience where you treated someone poorly. How did you feel about it afterward? What would you change about that instance if you could do it over again?

From Luther’s Small Catechism

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill.

In everyday language: “Do not kill.”

What does this mean?

We should respect and love God, so that we do not hurt other people or put them in danger. Instead, we should help others with what they need to live.

Thinking about the story, fill in the blanks to connect how the Fifth Commandment applies to being unkind. Use the words from the Word Bank:

**respect kill words names body
love hurt words**

Bobby spoke hurtful _____ to Steven. By calling him _____, he failed to show him _____.

When we fail to respect people, we can _____ their spirit. It is equally bad to kill a person’s spirit as it is to kill their _____.

Jesus calls us to _____ one another, not to _____ each other - not even with our _____.

Color in the words below:

Love your
neighbor as
yourself.

Pray Together

(If your child is not a reader, have them repeat after you, a few words at a time.)

Holy God, your Son Jesus taught us to love one another as he first loved us. Help us to be kind to others, even when we are upset, hurt, or tired. When others are unkind to us, help us to be brave and to react in kindness and peace. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.