



Grade 4: Home Circle of Grace Lesson- Internet Safety

Parents, thank you for reviewing the ‘Circle of Grace Summary of Key Concepts’ (located on page 3) to remind your children how much they are loved by God and how much he wants them to be safe.

We know that one of the most important areas for children to be safe is on the internet. Because many children have the internet and social media available 24/7 on their cell phone, tablets or PCs, our children need to know how to be **Internet Smart** from a young age.

Please discuss these scenarios with your child. After, please discuss the attached guidelines on how to use the internet/technology safely. Remind your child that if they are uncomfortable with what they are doing, feeling or seeing when on-line, it is probably NOT safe.

- _____ Your friend has been texting someone she met on the internet. She said her internet friend is 13 years old. Now the internet friend wants your friend to share her address. She does not know what to do since she has not told her parents about the texting. You tell her the smart thing to do is not to tell her parents because then they will take her phone away. You tell her maybe she could meet her internet friend somewhere instead of giving out her address.
- _____ You are on the internet and you see a “Pop Up” that has inappropriate images and words that make you uncomfortable. You leave the computer and go find your parent or trusted adult.
- _____ You see one of the older kids at school taking photos of your classmates coming out of gym class. You know no one is allowed to take pictures with a phone during school without permission. It makes you uncomfortable but you do not want the older kid to be mad at you so you do not tell anyone including your teacher or parents.
- _____ You were sent several e-mails/texts saying hurtful things about one of your classmates. You notice that he has been out sick the last couple of days. You are worried about him so you talk to your parents or trusted adult about your concern.
- _____ Your friend tells you that if you don’t want your parents to see what you are doing on the computer, just minimize the screen when they enter the room. Although you are nervous about disagreeing with your friend, you tell him/her that you do not want to view images or seek information that would not be ok with your parents or trusted adults. Their trust in you is important.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO??

Scenario A: You are unsure or feel unsafe while viewing something or interacting with someone while using the computer or other technical device (ie: phone, tablet, gaming system, etc.) and you know your parents would not approve.

Action Plan

Do not exit the site.

1. Find a trusted adult and show them what you are concerned about.
2. Review how you got to this point on the computer.
3. Have an adult help you exit the site.

Scenario B: You are unsure or feel unsafe when you are asked by someone to view something on the computer/technical device (ie: phone, tablet, gaming system, etc.). It makes you uncomfortable and you know your parents would not approve.

Action Plan

1. **Walk** away from the computer.
2. **Tell** a trusted adult.

Children's Rules and Guidelines for Internet Safety



(Parents, please discuss these rules and guidelines with your child.)

- Never give out personal information such as your address, telephone number, parents' names and phone numbers, or where you go to school or grade level.
- Never assume someone is who they say they are. They are not "friends" if you have never met them in person.
- Treat everyone that you encounter online as a stranger, using the same rules for dealing with strangers online as you would for strangers you see on the street.
- Never agree to meet someone that introduced themselves on the internet without a parent's or trusted adult's approval.
- Never send a picture or anything else to someone who requests it.
- Tell a trusted adult if someone sends you a picture or message that makes you uncomfortable or you know your parents would not approve.
- If you come across information on the internet that makes you feel uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult immediately.
- Never respond to any messages or send any messages that are mean, threatening, or make anyone feel uncomfortable. Go tell a trusted adult immediately.
- Follow the rules established by your parents for computer, phone and internet usage.
- Never download or install software or do anything that could jeopardize a family's privacy. If you do this accidentally, go tell a trusted adult immediately.
- Other than your parents, do not share your internet password with anyone and change it regularly.

Action Plan A: _____

Action Plan B: _____

Summary of the Key Concepts of “Circle of Grace”



God gives each of us a Circle of Grace (see below) where He is always “Present”:

*Raise your hands above your head, then bring your outstretched arms slowly down.
Extend your arms in front of you and then behind you embrace all of the space around you
slowly reach down to your feet.
Know that God is in this space with you. This is your Circle of Grace; you are in it.*

God is “Present” because He desires a relationship with us.

- God is with us when we are happy and sad. God does not cause bad things to happen to us. He loves us very much.
- God desires to help us when we are hurt, scared or confused (unsafe).
- Having faith may not take away all of life’s struggles. It is because of these struggles, God promised to always “be present”; providing guidance and comfort in our time of need.

God helps us know what belongs in our Circle of Grace

- Our feelings help us know about ourselves and the world around us.
- God helps us know what belongs in our Circle of Grace by allowing us to experience peace, love or contentment when something or someone good comes into our Circle of Grace.

God helps us know what does not belong in our Circle of Grace

- God desires to help us when we are hurt, scared or confused (unsafe).
- The Holy Spirit prompts (alerts) us that something does not belong in our Circle of Grace by giving us “a funny or uncomfortable feeling” that something is not safe. This feeling is there because God wants us to be safe.

God helps us know when to ask for help from someone we trust.

- God gives us people in our lives to help us when we are troubled or struggling with a concern.
- God wants us to talk to trusted grownups about our worries, concerns or “funny/ uncomfortable feelings” so they can help us be safe and take the right action.