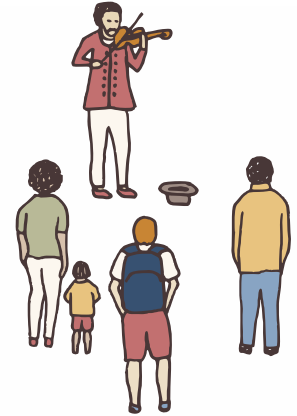


Safety Awareness

New Freedoms

Discuss the freedoms and responsibilities that come with growing older and more mature. Talk about some of the choices and temptations your child may face as he or she is gaining more independence and what he or she can do to make good choices and stay safe.

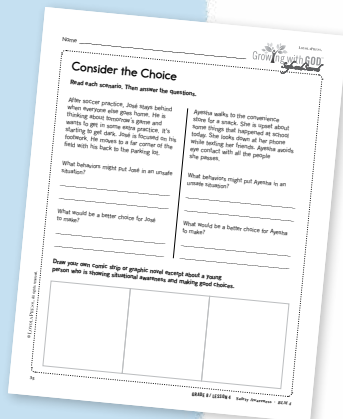


God's Gift of Reason

God gave us reason to help us make safe and responsible choices. Ask your child to share some ways he or she has learned to stay safe, such as staying with a group and in well-lit places at night. Suggest that your child ask him or herself, "Is this a safe choice?" before making decisions and to check with you if he or she is not sure.

Situational Awareness

Review with your child the Consider the Choice handout. Discuss having situational awareness and using our senses to notice what is going on around us. Take a walk with your child. Discuss the importance of avoiding distracting behaviors, such as wearing earbuds and looking at a phone when outdoors or in public places. Remind your child that being aware of our surroundings and staying alert is a way to keep ourselves safe.



Strength and Solace

Talk with your child about how we become spiritually strong when we practice our faith. Faith helps us make good choices and find strength and comfort when difficult things happen. Tell your child about a time when you faced a challenge and how you overcame it. Pray together to ask God for strength, especially in tough times. Thank God for his loving presence.



Name _____

Consider the Choice

Read each scenario. Then answer the questions.

After soccer practice, José stays behind when everyone else goes home. He is thinking about tomorrow's game and wants to get in some extra practice. It's starting to get dark. José is focused on his footwork. He moves to a far corner of the field with his back to the parking lot.

What behaviors might put José in an unsafe situation?

What would be a better choice for José to make?

Ayesha walks to the convenience store for a snack. She is upset about some things that happened at school today. She looks down at her phone while texting her friends. Ayesha avoids eye contact with all the people she passes.

What behaviors might put Ayesha in an unsafe situation?

What would be a better choice for Ayesha to make?

Draw your own comic strip or graphic novel excerpt about a young person who is showing situational awareness and making good choices.

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