

Circle of Grace Vocabulary

Words introduced in Kindergarten

Children of God: All people are made and loved by God.

Circle of Grace: The love and goodness of God which always surrounds me and all others.

Feelings: Something I sense inside myself (e.g. angry, sad, happy, afraid, embarrassed, confused, excited, peaceful, etc.) which gives me information about others or myself.

Grace: The gift of God's goodness and love to help me live as his child.

Holy: Special because of a connection with God.

Holy Spirit: God present with and within me. The Holy Spirit helps me to remember that I belong to God. The Holy Spirit helps me to experience and live God's love.

Respect: Being kind to others and doing what's best for myself and others because I honor all people as Children of God.

Safe: I am safe when my body and my feelings are respected by me and by others.

Safe Touch: Touch that respects others and me.

Secret: A secret is something I know but do not tell.

Safe Secret: A secret is safe when it does not hurt others or me.

Unsafe Secret: A secret is unsafe when I think that someone, including me, might be hurt or get in trouble if I do not tell.

Signal: A sign that tells me something may be safe or unsafe. This may be internal or external.

Stoplight: A traffic light (red, yellow, green) that is a visual signal for keeping vehicles and people safe.

Trust: Being able to count on someone to help me to stay safe within my Circle of Grace.

Trusted Adult: A grown-up who helps me to stay safe in my Circle of Grace and to respect others within their Circle of Grace.

Unsafe: Anything that causes harm to myself or others.

Unsafe Touch: Touch that is disrespectful and hurts, scares, or makes me feel uncomfortable or confused.

Words Introduced in First Grade

Symbol: A picture or object that stands for something else.

Words Introduced in Second Grade

No new words.

Words Introduced in Third Grade

Boundary: The borders or limits we need to keep ourselves safe within our Circle of Grace.

Treasured: We are so unique and precious that we could not be replaced in God's eyes.

Violate: To break a law, promise, or boundary.

Words Introduced in Fourth Grade

Blog: An online journal. Personal stories or thoughts can be posted as in a personal journal. This is a public journal that anyone can access.

Chat Room: The name given to a place or page in a website or online service where people can chat with each other by typing messages which are displayed almost instantly on the screens of others who are in the chat room.

Flaming: Sending a deliberately confrontational message to others on the Internet.

Inappropriate Material: Pictures or words on the Internet that make you feel uncomfortable, scared, or that intentionally degrade a human person.

Instant messaging (IM): Technology similar to that of chat rooms which notifies a user when a person is online allowing them to converse by exchanging text messages.

Netiquette: Courteous, honest, and polite behavior practiced on the Internet.

Personal Contact Information: Information that allows an individual to be contacted or located in the physical world, such as a telephone number or an address.

Phishing: An identity theft scam in which criminals send out spam that imitates the look and language of legitimate correspondence from e-commerce sites. The fake messages generally link to websites that are similarly faked to look like the sites of the respected companies. On the sites you are directed to enter your personal information for authentication or confirmation purposes. The information, when submitted, goes to the thieves, not to the "spoofed" company.

Predator: Someone who uses the Internet to obtain personal information about others with the intent to do harm.

Words Introduced in Fifth Grade

Media: Mass communication formats (music, TV, magazines, movies, videos, Internet, computer games, books, advertisements, news, newspapers, radio, etc.) which provide education, information, entertainment, and advertising.

Inappropriate Media: Images or words, spoken or written, that make you feel uncomfortable, scared, or that intentionally degrade a human person.

Words Introduced in Sixth Grade

Admiration: A feeling of high regard or sense of awe.

Dream: A hope or aspiration which we imagine will become real.

Empathy: The ability to understand the feelings of another person.

Healthy: That which is sound and vigorous in mind, body, and spirit.

Relationship: A connection with God or others.

Response: Something said or done as a reaction or answer.

Talent: A special God-given ability or gift.

Value: A principle standard or quality considered desirable.

Violation: A break or infringement of another person's rights.

Words Introduced in Seventh Grade

Disrespect: Treating with rudeness, insult, or lack of respect.

Words Introduced in Eighth Grade

Conscience: The gift from God that helps me to know the difference between right and wrong.

Modesty: The virtue that respects, honors, and protects privacy: the quality of avoiding extremes of emotion, action, dress, and language. Modesty respects my boundaries and the boundaries of others.

Morality: The way we put our beliefs into action for good.

Sexuality: Everything that makes us female or male. This includes feelings, attitudes, values, relationships, and ideas.

Words Introduced in Ninth Grade²

Accusations: Accusing another person of actions or behaviors that cannot be substantiated. Many times the accusations are exaggerated and spoken publicly.

Anger: Using angry words or physical harm to get something from someone else.

Bribery: Giving to get. The gift may be tangible (flowers, jewelry, dinner) or intangible (compliment, attention, date).

Flattery: Insincere, exaggerated, and sometimes sexual comments spoken with the intention of getting something in return.

Insecurity: Bringing attention to another person's vulnerabilities and weaknesses or using one's own weakness to manipulate.

² Adapted from Unmasking Sexual Con Games: Leaders Guide by Kathleen M. McGee and Laura J. Buddenberg, Boys Town Press, 2003, used with permission.

Intimidation: Using words or actions to threaten, scare, or overpower another person. Intimidation may also include bringing public attention to another person's weaknesses.

Jealousy: Being possessive of another person's time, property, or body.

Status: Using one's age, profession, popularity, position, or power to manipulate.

Words Introduced in Tenth Grade

Circle of Virtue: Our response to the invitation of God's grace by cultivating goodness and virtue in our lives.

Words Introduced in Eleventh Grade

Moral Responsibility: As we grow into mature adults, we must take greater responsibility for protecting ourselves and others from violations of God's plan for our spiritual, sexual, and moral lives.

Freely Chosen Violations: Every person is responsible for those violations they freely choose and know are wrong. (We should never blame or accuse persons to the extent that they are victims of abuse and are manipulated in unequal relationships.)

Victim: A person who has suffered injury/harm (physical or emotional) by forces beyond his or her control and not of his or her personal responsibility.

Survivor: A person who not only lives through but thrives despite abuse, affliction, or adversity.

Adaptations³:

Lust: Convincing a victim that it is normal to have intense sexual desire.

Coercive Properties: Using words that threaten or intimidate a victim.

Possessiveness: Treating a victim like an object.

Repetitiveness: Constantly using the same words to gain a victim's trust.

Control: Words used to reinforce position as the "boss".

Emotional Groomer⁴: A person who manipulates another's emotions to skillfully gain control of that person.

Language Cons⁵: Words and phrases or "lines" that groomers use to trick and manipulate their targets.

Boundaries⁶: Healthy physical and emotional distance between persons. Set limits in relationships. Boundaries define where you end and where someone else begins and keeps you safe in your Circle of Grace.

³ Ibid.

⁴ McGee, Kathleen M. and Laura J. Buddenberg *Unmasking Sexual Con Games 3rd Edition A Teen's guide to Avoiding Emotional Grooming and Dating Violence* (Boys Town NE: Boys Town Press, 2003), used with permission.

⁵ Ibid.

Same-Gender Friendships⁷: Learning and practicing what it means to be a genuine friend to people of the same gender.

Opposite-Gender Friendships⁸: Learning and practicing how to have fun with and appreciate the other gender.

Dating Steps⁹

Friendly Dating: Includes group dating and single dating. The purpose is to get to know many different people. Helps to shape your idea of whom you might want to date seriously. It is wise to go no further than holding hands or hugging.

Steady Friendly Dating: Dating one person exclusively while maintaining appropriate emotional and sexual boundaries. Goes no further than hugging or kissing.

Serious Steady Dating: Is this the spouse for me? Begin examining relationship in light of marriage. Maintains same boundaries as listed above.

Engagement: Couple prepares for life-long, committed, bonded relationship.

Marriage: Bonding on all levels – emotional, physical, sexual, and spiritual.

Words Introduced in Twelfth Grade

No new words.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.