

Circle of Grace

Safe Environment Training

Tech Savvy or Tech Safe?

Philosophy

What is a Circle of Grace?

The Catholic Church teaches that God has created each of us as unique and special. Genesis 1:27 tells us that we are created “male and female in God’s image” and that God saw this as “very good.” In that goodness, we are meant to respect ourselves and everyone else as persons created and loved by God.

Adults assist young people to recognize God’s love by helping them to understand that each of us lives and moves in a *Circle of Grace*. You can imagine your own *Circle of Grace* by putting your arms above your head then circle down in front of your body including side to side. This circle, front to back, holds who you are in your body and through your senses. It holds your very essence in mind, heart, soul, and sexuality.

Why is it important to help our young people understand the Circle of Grace?

God intends our relationships in life to be experiences of divine love. Respectful, nurturing, loving relationships increase our understanding of our own value and help us to love others. It is never too early to help young people understand how very special they are and how relationships in life are called to be sacred. Understanding this can help them to protect the special person they are and to be respectful of others.

Adults, as they strive to provide a safe and protective environment, hold the responsibility to help young people understand and respect their own dignity and that of others. A truly safe and protective environment is one where young people recognize when they are safe or unsafe and know how to bring their concerns, fears, and uncertainties to the trusted adults in their lives.

How is the Circle of Grace Program different from other protection programs?

According to research, one in four girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused by age eighteen.¹ Many protection programs focus on “stranger danger,” however, up to ninety percent of the time the perpetrator is a relative, family friend or other person known to the child/young person. *Circle of Grace* goes beyond just protection by helping young people understand the sacredness of who they are and how to seek help through their relationships with trusted adults.

Goal of the Circle of Grace Program - Grades K-12

The goal of the *Circle of Grace* program is to educate and empower children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others.

Objectives of the Circle of Grace Program - Grades K-12

- Children/Young People will understand they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Children/Young People will be able to describe the *Circle of Grace* which God gives each of us.
- Children/Young People will be able to identify, discern and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual boundaries.
- Children/Young People will be able to identify all types of boundary violations.
- Children/Young People will demonstrate how to take action if any boundary is threatened or violated.

¹ www.usccb.org, or <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov>

Leader Guidelines

- A **Leader** is defined as clergy, administrator, director of religious education/formation, teacher, or catechist who has been trained to teach the *Circle of Grace* Program.
- Every leader should read the Philosophy, Goals and Key Concepts to better understand and prepare to teach the *Circle of Grace*. The Key Concepts review the essence of the curriculum, that God is always present in our *Circle of Grace* because He desires an intimate relationship with His children.
- The time frame may vary depending on size of class, age of young people, amount of discussion, etc.
- Vocabularies with definitions are intended for the leader. The explanation of vocabulary should be integrated within the context of the lessons to assist the young people in their understanding of the *Circle of Grace* Program. The depth of the young people's understanding will depend upon their age and developmental stage. A master vocabulary list of the *Circle of Grace* Program is included in all lesson plans. The pertinent vocabulary is listed in each lesson.
- If possible it is always "best practice" to have two adults in the room during the lesson due to the sensitive nature of the material.
- The 9-12 curriculum is formatted to be used in two ways:
 - ✓ The traditional way: lessons taught to the identified grade.
The lesson for grade 12 is only to be taught to seniors.
 - ✓ The second way: select any one of the 9-11 sections or alternate lessons to teach the class or group. Remember that all four lessons in grade 9 equal a section and must be taught together. One may consider presenting the 9th grade lessons as a retreat. Leaders will need to keep a record of what lesson is taught each year.
- Ongoing reinforcement of the concepts is encouraged throughout the year. Hopefully, the language of *Circle of Grace* will become a part of a positive culture of respect, care, and faith that will help protect our young people and help them to know what to do when they feel unsafe.
- Your Administrator, Religious Education Director, or Youth Minister Director will be sending out a letter to all parents regarding *Circle of Grace*. Lesson specific parent information should be handed out as directed. The Parent Packet is included in the Program. Every parish/school is encouraged to provide parent education opportunities both to inform parents about the *Circle of Grace* program and to foster greater communication in families.
- Evaluations for each grade are to be completed and returned to the School Administrator or the Director of Religious Education/Formation. The evaluations will be used to complete the Summary Evaluation that is used for ongoing improvement of the program and for the audit records.

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.
Knowing 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 adults about our worries, concerns or “uncomfortable feelings” so they can help us be safe and take the right action.

Circle of Grace Vocabulary

Words introduced in Kindergarten

Bullying: Repeatedly being mean to someone on purpose

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

Social Media/Networking

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.

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.

Location Application: An application (app) used in phones to find a location of a popular spot (restaurant, park etc.). People use the application to check in and it broadcasts the location to all of their friends.

Micro Blogging: This service allows users to give updates about what they are doing in less than 140 characters. In the near future, it may go to 280 characters.

Photo Sharing App: Captures, edits & shares photos, videos & messages with friends & family.

Social Networking Service and Websites: These services and websites are used to communicate with (a person) or search for information about (a person).

Video Sharing Service: This service allows users to watch videos posted by others and to upload videos of their own.

Mobile Video App: Allows you to send videos and pictures, both of which will disappear after about 10 seconds of a person viewing them. You can view them after the 10 seconds if you did a screen shot.

Other Terms

Cyber Bullying: Use of the internet, cell phone or other electronic device to send or post texts or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person.

E-mail: Electronic mail. Sending/ receiving a type written message from one screen to another.

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

Inappropriate Material: Pictures or words on the internet that makes one feel uncomfortable, scared, or that intentionally degrades a human person.

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, i.e. 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 respected companies. On the sites, users are directed to enter their personal information for authentication or confirmation purposes. The information, when submitted, goes to the thieves not to the “spoofed” company.

Pop Up: A term for unsolicited advertising that appears as its own browser window.

Predator: Someone who uses the internet or other means to obtain personal information about others with the intent to do harm.

Smart Phone: Is a mobile phone that offers advanced features like the internet, a camera and applications such as games and special interest information.

Texting: Sending a short text (typed) message and/or photo between cell phones or other handheld devices.

Webcam: A front facing video camera that attaches to a computer or is built into laptop.

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, words that are spoken or written, that make one feel uncomfortable or scared. This type of media is disrespectful to people and would be something your parent/trusted adult would not approve.

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 good for you in mind, body, and spirit.

Relationship: An authentic 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

Bullying: Any deliberate aggressive behaviors (physical, verbal or social) by a person or group with the intent to inflict harm on or make fun of another person.

Bystander: Someone who witnesses the bullying. They can have a negative or positive influence on the bullying behavior.

Cyber Bullying: The use of the internet, cell phones or other electronic devices to send or post texts or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person.

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

Words Introduced in Eighth Grade

Conscience: The gift from God that helps us 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 Middle School Alternate Lessons

Stress: A state of mental/emotional strain resulting from adverse or demanding circumstances

Pressure: Typically applied from an external source (peers, teachers, family, etc.) in a demand for high performance or healthy/unhealthy behavior,

Words Introduced in Ninth Grade

Exploit: To take unfair advantage of someone/some situation in order to get some benefit.

Forced Isolation: When someone forces/pressures another to be separated from others in order to gain control.

Secrecy: The condition of being hidden or concealed. The habit or practice of keeping secrets or maintaining privacy or concealment.

Sexting: Sexually explicit images or text messages sent by way of a phone. There may be legal consequences if one or both persons involved are minors.

Unequal Power: When one person has more power in a relationship. This can be in the area of age, size, position, resources, status or knowledge.

Words Introduced in Tenth Grade

Boundary: A border or limit that helps keep us safe and separate from another person or entity. Boundaries help define relationships. They are either concrete (physical/visual/audio) or abstract (emotions/beliefs/internal guidelines/rules).

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

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

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.

Offender: Someone who exhibits behaviors for the sole purpose of putting another person in a vulnerable position to be exploited/abused.

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

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.

Words Introduced in Twelfth Grade

No new words.

Words Introduced in the High School Alternate Lessons

Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery

Human Trafficking: Slavery in the form of *forced labor* or *sex trafficking* in which the victim is under 18 years of age, or is compelled by force, fraud or coercion, respectively, to provide labor or services, or to engage in a commercial sex act. There is no requirement that the victim be transported or travel across a *national* border.

Coercion: Threatening physical or non-physical harm (psychological or financial) against someone in order to manipulate them into doing something they do not want to do or would not normally do.

Modesty: A thing of the Past or Not?

Humility: Understanding of the truth of God and who we truly are; made in His image.

What is Your Motto?

Motto/Theme: A maxim adopted as a guide to one's conduct. This motto can be derived from our Catholic or popular culture

Tech Savvy or Tech Safe?

Sexting: Sexually explicit images or texts sent by way of the phone. There may be legal consequences if one or both persons involved are minors.

Pornography: 1: The depiction of erotic behavior (pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement. 2: material (as books or a photograph) that depicts erotic behavior and is intended to cause sexual excitement 3: the depiction of acts in a sensational manner so as to arouse a quick intense emotional reaction, *Merriam Webster*

Circle of Grace

Tech Savvy or Tech Safe?

High School Alternate Lesson

Sometimes young people reveal personal information or details about incidents that, in order to respect confidentiality, need to be handled outside of the group environment. If this happens, tell the young person, "Thank you for sharing that, _____. That sounds really important. I will talk to you about that later (at the end of class, at the break, as soon as humanly possible, etc.)." When this happens, be sure you talk to the young person at your first opportunity and alert the administration. Remember that you are the responsible reporter in cases of suspected abuse.

This lesson complements the following Catholic teachings:

- Church teaching revealed in the Creed that applies to our daily lives
- Human relationships are intended to be experiences of Divine Love
- Personal covenant with God
- Live responsibly as fully initiated members of the Church
- Discipleship is our call to holiness
- The relationship between the love of God our love of self and our love of others
- The image of God is in ourselves and others

Lesson Objective

Young People will be able to:

1. Identify and understand why internet/technology safety is important.
2. Recognize the key ways one can be deceived by an internet/ technological interaction.
3. Recognize ways internet/ technological interactions or internet sites can damage ones relationship with God, self and others
4. Understand the connection between technological/internet activity and your *Circle of Grace*
5. Recognize the need for healthy boundaries, when involved in technological/ internet activity.
6. Recognize ways youth are pressured to participate in questionable technological/ internet activity.
7. Know appropriate responses when one is confronted with inappropriate interactions or violations.

Materials Needed

1. Tech Savvy or Tech Safe? Quiz for each student (see the end of the lesson).

2. Leader answer guide to the Tech Savvy or Tech Safe IQ quiz for each student (see the end of the lesson)
3. Cultivating Virtue and Blocking Virtue diagrams for each student
4. Whiteboard or chalkboard
5. Props for skits

Opening Prayer:

God,
We ask for Your guidance and a little more:
guidance in relationships,
guidance in decisions,
guidance in love,
and guidance in worshiping You.
Amen.

Getting Started

Most American youth are tech savvy but are they tech safe? Today we are going to talk about being savvy and safe with technology and its many tools. These electronic tools include phones, tablets, internet games and computers. Many people use their phones or computers to go to social networking sites, blogs, micro blogs, to play games and to send messages, photos, or texts. Some of these tools use the internet and some don't. All of these tools can help people feel connected or disconnected from the world around them. Sometimes these human connections reflect the love of God and neighbor and sometimes they do not.

Make a list of all the tools mentioned above (phones, notepads, internet games, computers and any other ones the group identifies) on the board. Ask youth to brainstorm all the reasons they use these tools. List the responses under the appropriate tool, example: communication could be listed under all the tools.

Getting information, entertainment, escape, or boredom may be only listed on some. Now have the youth identify positive (P) and negative (N) activities under each reason. Examples:

- **Communication:** P - texting a friend who just lost their grandparent, N - texting a vulgar statement to unpopular classmate (bullying)
- **Entertainment:** P - playing a word game on your tablet/phone, N - playing a violent and sexually explicit internet game with anonymous players
- **Boredom/Escape:** P - You search the internet for information regarding your favorite hobby (movies, sports, cooking), N - You start chatting on a social network site with someone you have never met. You go to a questionable site and discover pornography.

Summarize: It is important to recognize the positive and negative ways one can use technology. Recognizing the positive ways to use technology can assist one in using the tools more

appropriately in the future. Recognizing the negative ways technology can be used help us avoid potential harm or problems in the future.

Opening Activity: Tech Savvy or Tech Safe?

Option 1 - Pass out the quiz to each student. Have the youth do the quiz individually and then go to the large group discussion section.

Option 2 - Pass out the quiz to each student. Divide the class into several groups. Have the groups discuss the questions on the quiz then go to the large group discussion section.

Large Group Discussion:

Were you surprised by any of the statistics on the quiz? Why might one communicate something using technology that they would not say in person?

Allow for a few responses. Write them on the board.

Let's discuss the questions on the quiz.

The answer guide to the quiz is at the end of the lesson. Discuss each question. Prompt the youth to identify the correct answer and key concepts related to each question. After the discussion, proceed to the review.

Review

It is important that young people understand the relationship between the Circle of Virtue and the *Circle of Grace*. The *Circle of Grace* is always present and never leaves us. Our Circle of Virtue is our positive response to our *Circle of Grace* and can change due to our free will. When we participate in negative behaviors we damage our ability to fully participate in God's grace and stunt the development of virtue in our lives.

Distribute to each student a copy of the Cultivating Virtue and Blocking Virtue Diagram found at the end of the lesson. Write the definitions below on the board.

Circle of Grace: The love and goodness of God that always surrounds us.

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

Cyber Bullying: The use of the internet, cell phones or other electronic devices to send or post texts or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person.

Sexting: Sexually explicit images or text sent by way of the phone. There may be legal consequences if one or both persons involved are minors.

Pornography: 1: The depiction of erotic behavior (pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement. 2: material (as books or a photograph) that depicts erotic behavior and is intended to cause sexual excitement 3: the depiction of acts in a sensational manner so as to arouse a quick intense emotional reaction, *Merriam Webster*.

So what do these concepts really mean and how do they really connect to our relationship with God?

Activity

1. Divide the youth into two groups.
2. Give each group one of the diagrams (*Cultivating Virtue and Blocking Virtue*).
3. Instruct them to develop a skit to reflect aspects of the diagram. Advise the Blocking Virtue group to portray the inappropriate behavior generally and not include any specific inappropriate words or actions. They are encouraged to add additional blocking behaviors to the blank arrows. Below are a few examples. Youth may come up with other examples.
 - ✓ Example 1: A teen decides to leave a party at a friend's house because the group is posting cruel messages on a classmate's social network page.
 - ✓ Example 2: A teen has been going to inappropriate websites. Lately, he has been distant from friends and family and uninterested in normal activities. When his parents or friends ask what is wrong he gets angry or acts like he doesn't care. Deep down, he thinks he may have a problem but is embarrassed to talk about his secret online behavior.
4. Provide them with props for the skits.
5. Each group performs their skit for the class.

Summarize: Ask the following questions:

1. How can posting a cruel message (a negative/blocking behavior) damage our relationships with others? With God?
2. Let's review virtues: The Theological virtues are faith, hope and charity. The Cardinal virtues are prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Which virtue(s) would help you walk away from a bad situation like posting cruel messages?
3. How did going to inappropriate websites (a negative/blocking behavior) damage the young man's relationship with his family? With his friends? With God?
4. Which virtue(s) would help you avoid seeking out inappropriate websites?
5. Which virtue(s) would enable you to ask a parent or friend for help if you were finding it difficult to stop going to inappropriate websites?
6. Do you think these situations happen in real life?
7. What are safe ways to resist participating in technological behaviors that can block God's grace

Allow time for various responses then post some of their responses on the board.

Final Discussion -

1. Where or to whom can a teen go for help if he/she is feeling pressure to participate in technological behaviors that violate his/her personal boundaries?
2. Where or to whom can a teen go for help if he/she is feeling pressure to participate in technological behaviors which violate another's personal boundaries?

Allow time for various responses then post some of their responses on the board. Summarize and add to their responses with the following recommendations.

- Listen to your gut, it is the Holy Spirit prompting you that something is wrong. Learn to recognize the settings and interactions that can get you into uncomfortable situations. Listen to what your loved ones are telling you. God works through others to lead and protect us.
 - When someone pressures you, try to take yourself out of the situation.
 - You can free yourself from unhealthy relationships by seeking help from a trusted adult.
 - Tell someone who can help you. Talk to someone you trust – parent, professional, counselor, or other trusted adult.
-

Closing Prayer:

**God help me slow down
and be present to Your everlasting love.
Help me have REAL conversations with You
that guide and heal my brokenness.
Cultivate in my heart Your truth
and help me respond to Your Grace.
Give me courage to reject the lie
that you are a “distant” God.
Bless me with the gift of discernment,
knowing Your compassion and love is not relative
but eternal.
Your greatest desire from me
is my sincere “yes”.**

Amen

Tech Savvy or Tech Safe Quiz?

Complete the following questions. Be prepared to discuss them in the large group.

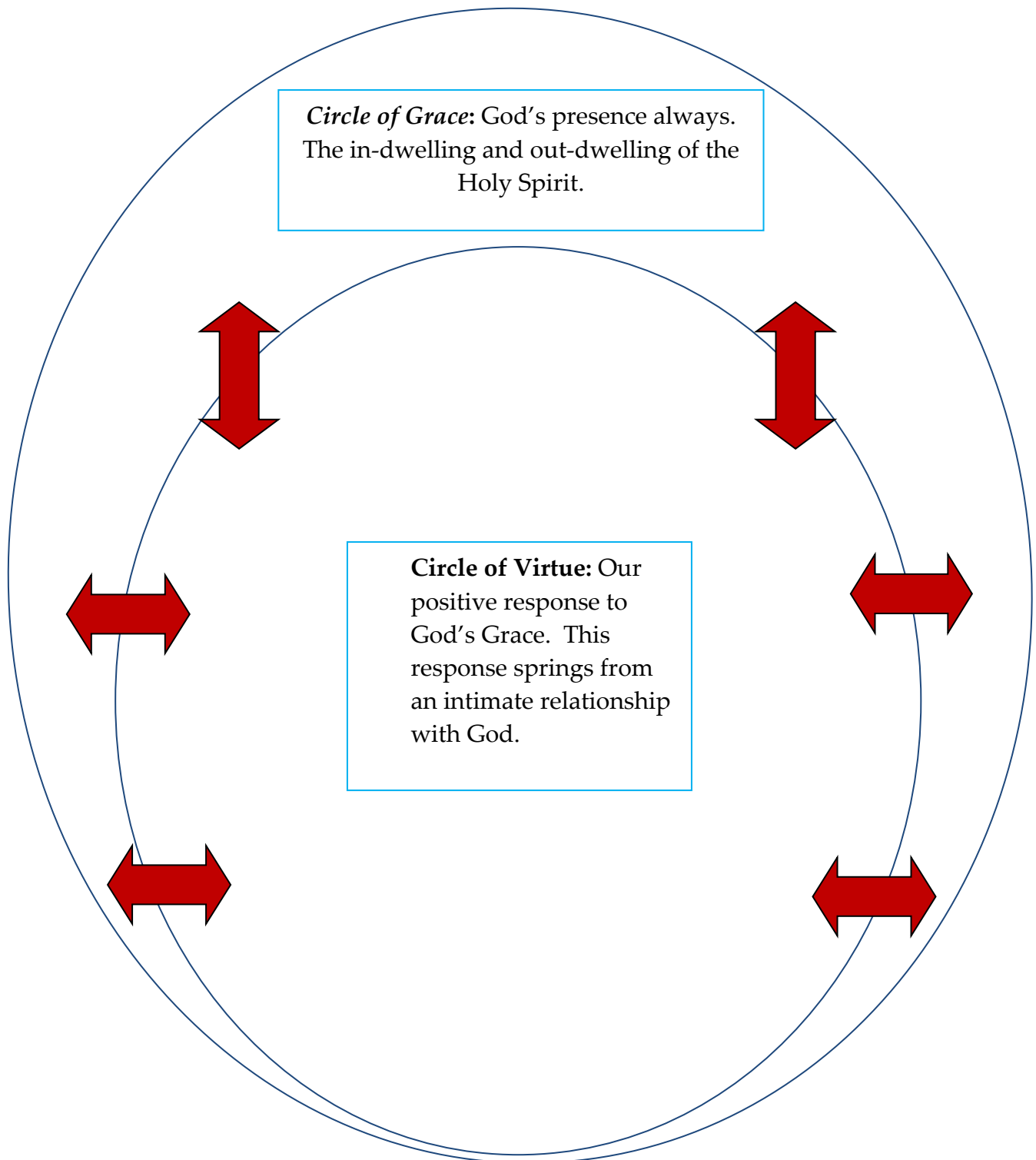
1. Being “tech savvy” automatically means one is always safe when using technology.
True False
2. An article in 2009 Journal of Adolescent Health states that 96% of teens interviewed had internet access and 55.4 % reported they had visited a sexually explicit website.
True False
3. According to a study cited in the *Washington Post*, more than 5 million teenagers view internet pornography on a regular basis.
True False
4. Define Objectification:
5. A 2010 Iowa State University study of more than 130,000 subjects worldwide, found that exposure to violent video games does not have an significant effect on aggression or a person’s ability to empathize.
True False
6. Define Cyber Bullying:
7. 71% of teen girls and 67% of teen boys who have sent or posted sexually suggestive content say they have sent or posted this content to a boyfriend/girlfriend.
True False
8. 24% of all teens have been exposed to teen cyber abuse, such as being a victim, witness, or offender of cyber abuse.
True False
9. What does popular culture say about pornography?
10. List 5 ways youth are pressured to participate in unsafe online or electronic activity:

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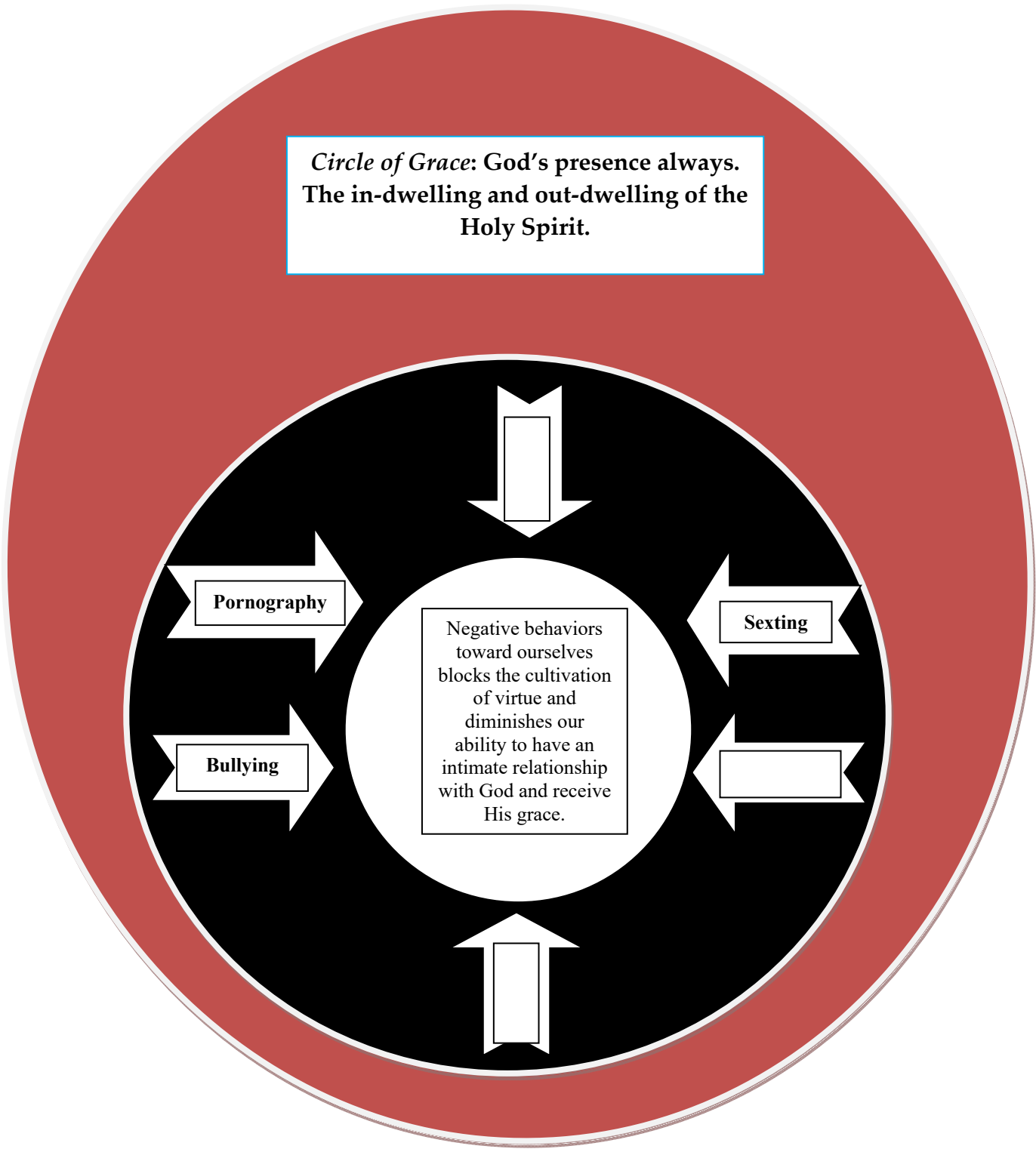
Answer Guide for Leaders

- 1. Being “tech savvy” automatically means one is always safe when using technology.**
False, being savvy does not mean someone is safe. Safety comes when one has the desire and ability to discern what is moral and good. Example: One may be the best at navigating the internet and installing new applications but believe the new person they met on the internet is who they say they are.
- 1. An article in 2009 Journal of Adolescent Health states that 96% of teens interviewed had internet access and 55.4 % reported they had visited a sexually explicit website.**
True
- 2. According to a study cited in the Washington Post, more than 5 million teenagers view internet pornography on a regular basis.**
False, the study cites 11 million teens view internet pornography. Encourage a discussion on how this behavior may affect their views on sexuality and intimacy in marriage
- 3. Define Objectification:** *An attitude in which women are objects rated by size, shape, and harmony of body parts. Can women objectify men? Objectifying women/men leads to emotional unavailability and dissatisfaction. Discuss why this is not consistent with “being made in God’s Image”.*
- 4. A 2010 Iowa State University study of more than 130,000 subjects worldwide, found that exposure to violent video games does not have a significant effect on aggression or a person’s ability to empathize.** *False, the study concludes that exposure to violent video games results in more aggressive, less empathetic youths. Why do you think this behavior contributes to youth being less empathetic?*
- 5. Define Cyber Bullying:** *Use of the internet, cell phone or other electronic devices to send or post texts or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person.*
- 6. 71% of teen girls and 67% of teen boys who have sent or posted sexually suggestive content say they have sent or posted this content to a boyfriend/girlfriend.**
True. Why do you think one would participate in this behavior that is degrading to who they really are?
- 7. 24% of all teens have been exposed to teen cyber abuse, such as being a victim, witness, or offender of cyber abuse.**
False, fifty percent of all teens have been exposed to teen cyber abuse, such being a victim, witness, or offender of cyber abuse. Why is this percentage so high? What are safe ways to act/intervene in this destructive behavior?
- 8. What does popular culture say about pornography?**
Encourage them to identify subtle (i.e.: T.V. shows, advertizing) and the obvious (pornography website) ways that popular culture promotes a disrespectful and degrading view of sexuality and the human person.
- 9. List 5 ways youth are pressured to participate in unsafe online or electronic activity:**

Cultivating Virtue Diagram



Blocking Virtue Diagram



*Circle of Grace: God's presence always.
The in-dwelling and out-dwelling of the
Holy Spirit.*

Pornography

Bullying

Sexting

Negative behaviors toward ourselves blocks the cultivation of virtue and diminishes our ability to have an intimate relationship with God and receive His grace.

Opening Prayer

God,

We ask for Your guidance and a little more:
guidance in relationships,
guidance in decisions,
guidance in love,
and guidance in worshiping You.

Amen

Closing Prayer:

God help me slow down
and be present to Your everlasting love.
Help me have REAL conversations with You
that guide and heal my brokenness.
Cultivate in my heart Your truth,
and help me respond to Your Grace.
Give me courage to reject the lie
that You are a “distant” God.
Bless me with the gift of discernment,
knowing Your compassion and love is not relative
but eternal.
Your greatest desire from me
is my sincere “yes”.

Amen

Tech Savvy or Tech Safe? Evaluation

Date _____

Parish/School _____ *City* _____

Leader _____ *Number of young people in class* _____

Each grade's curriculum was designed to meet the overall program objectives.

Please check whether the objectives of the *Circle of Grace* Program were met.

1. YES _____ NO _____ Young People understand they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. YES _____ NO _____ Young People will be able to describe different technological tools.
3. YES _____ NO _____ Young People will be able to describe different technological tools as well as the positive and negative ways they are used.
4. YES _____ NO _____ Young People understand that negative technological behavior can block our openness to God's grace.
5. YES _____ NO _____ Young People will identify ways in which they are pressured to participate in negative technological behaviors.
6. YES _____ NO _____ Young People can identify what action to take when negative technological behaviors occur.

Please list what worked well and any resources that you would like to share with others (use back if necessary).

Please list any suggestions that would improve lessons (use back if necessary).

Return to your School Administrator, Director of Religious Education, or Director of Youth Ministry.