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# PARENTING SCRIPT #1

## 'A CONVERSATION ABOUT BULLYING'

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### THE RESOURCE

*Having conversations with your children about difficult topics or during difficult situations is not easy as parents. Often you don't know what to say or even how to say the things you want to say. Maybe it is a conversation your own parents never had with you.*

*Here is a "parenting script" of a conversation on one of these tough topics, "bullying". This is simply a helpful example for you in order to see how a conversation might go to empower you to have your own conversation with your child.*

### THE SCRIPT

[PARENT]

How was your day as school today?

Are you sure? It doesn't sound fine?

Is everything alright? Did something happen today?

It is alright. You can tell me. You won't be in trouble.

Oh?" Why don't you tell me about them?

[CHILD]

*Fine...*

*It was okay...*

*Well...*

*It's just there is this person at recess that last couple days...*

*They are bigger than the other kids in my class, and sometimes they do mean things to some of us when the teacher is not looking. Today they were mean to me.*

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### THE SCRIPT CONTINUED...

[ P A R E N T ]

[Remaining calm] What kind of mean things? What happened?

[Continuing to keep calm and with a controlled voice] Oh. Has this happened before?

Did you talk to your teacher or tell any of the adults at school?

Speaking up for yourself and protecting yourself, is not tattling. Especially if you or someone else might get hurt!

What do you think we should do?

I could do that, but I think it is important you talk to the teacher too. Would you be willing to go with me to talk to the teacher?"

[ C H I L D ]

*They called me a bad name that you don't allow me to say. Then they pushed me down and kicked dirt in my face. They laughed and called me the name again....*

*One other time, but I didn't want to tell you. But they have been doing it a lot to some of the other kids.*

*No, I was scared that they would get in trouble and then be mad at me. I thought they might do something worse to me if I tattled on them.*

*I know, but I am scared.*

*Maybe you could talk to the teacher for me?*

*Can't you just fix it for me?*

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### THE SCRIPT CONTINUED...

[ P A R E N T ]

I could, but I think God might be teaching you something through all of this. One of those things is learn how to deal with difficult people and situations.

Yes, I think everyone at one time or another has gone through a time where someone has been mean to them or said something mean to them. That is why it is so important for us to talk about these things and learn how to deal with them correctly.

Why do you think this person is acting this way?

Remember when you weren't happy the other day and how you reacted to everyone?

Sometimes we don't know why people aren't happy or what is going on in their lives that make them act or do what they do. It doesn't make it right that they act that way, but it helps us understand why it is so important to act differently because we follow Jesus.

[ C H I L D ]

*Did something like this ever happen to you?*

*Oh, really? Okay...*

*I am not sure. They just don't seem happy, and they are always saying mean things and doing mean stuff to other people.*

*Yeah, that was really mean.*

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### THE SCRIPT CONTINUED...

[PARENT]

[CHILD]

So, what does the Bible say about how we are supposed to react to other people who are mean to us or say mean things about us?

Oh! That is true.

Absolutely right! So, we will talk more about this, and together we will talk to your teacher tomorrow. Maybe we can find out about this person and how we can help them. I am sure your teacher, and maybe their parents, would like to know what is going on with you and some of the other students. Let's stop and pray for them. You start.....

We shouldn't be mean back... and we should pray for them?

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### HELPFUL BIBLE VERSES

*to share as part of your conversation...*

- 1** *Leviticus 19:18*  
You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.
- 2** *Proverbs 15:1*  
A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.
- 3** *Romans 12:17*  
Never pay back evil for evil to anyone Respect what is right in the sight of all men.