

**Beyond
2018**

*“... though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ,
and individually we belong to each other.”*

Hate in the Hallways:

Helping Children to Cope With Bullies and Cyberbullies



Let us go to the Lord in prayer

A 20th Century Prayer in the Spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi



Lord, make us instruments of your peace...

Where there is hatred, **let us sow love;**

where there is injury, **pardon;**

where there is doubt, **faith;**

where there is despair, **hope;**

where there is darkness, **light;**

where there is sadness, **joy;**

A 20th Century Prayer in the Spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi



O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

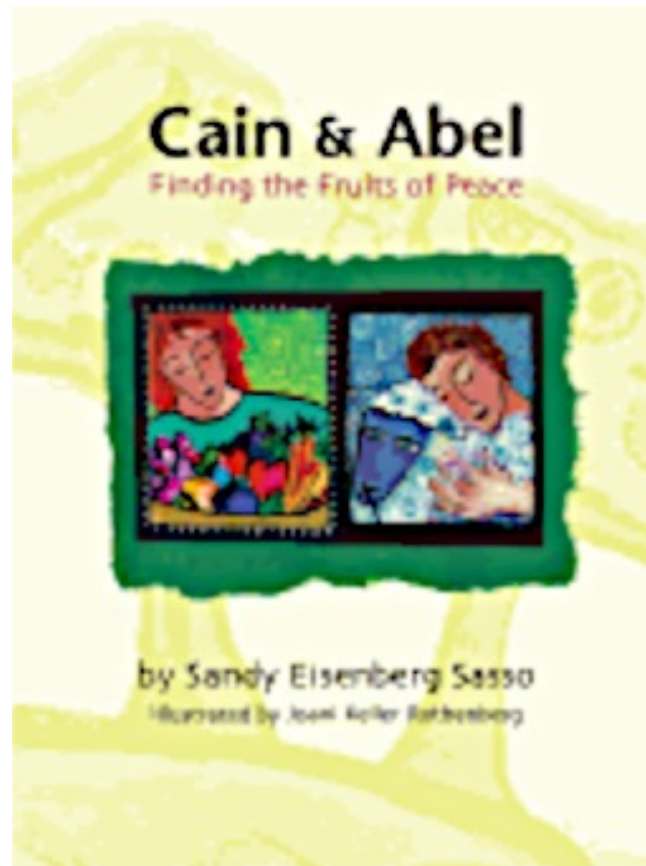
Amen!

Today We Will Explore



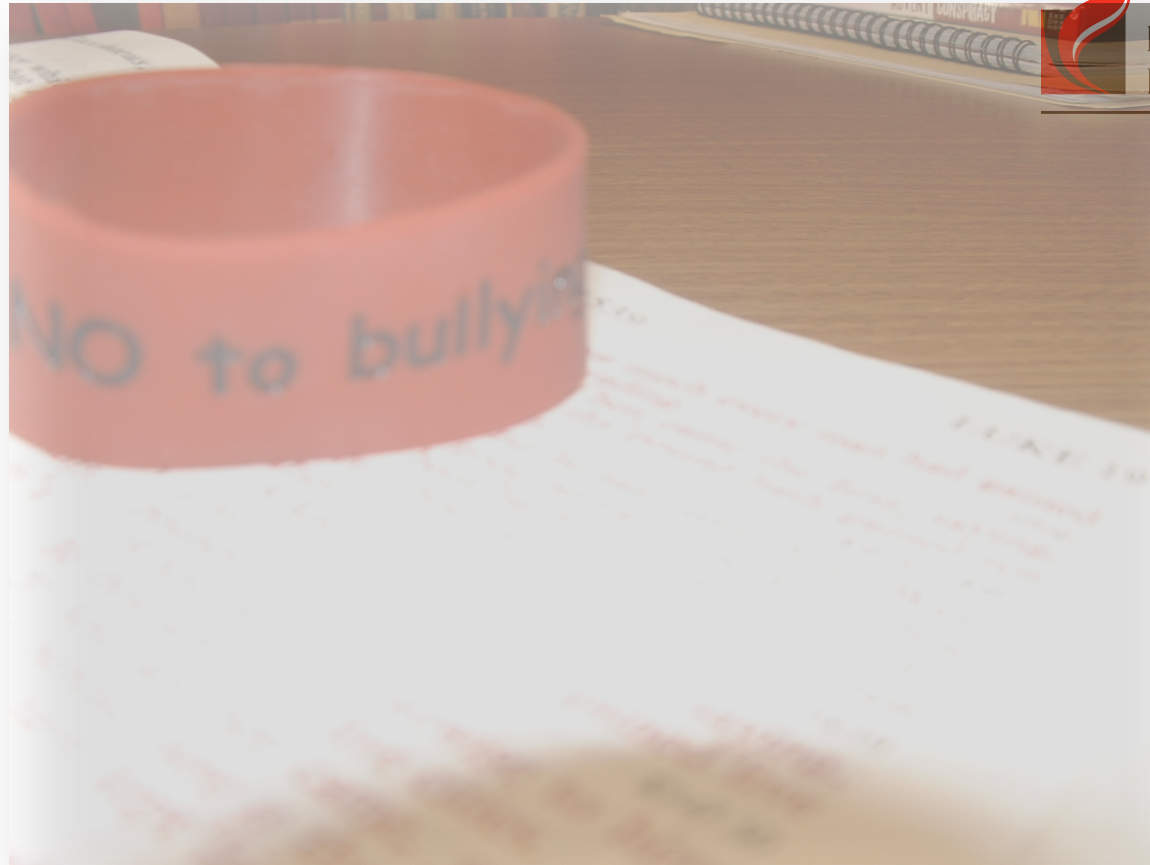
- Bullying Statistics in US Schools
- Impact of Bullying on Identity
- Our Christian Responsibility
- Practical Tools for Supporting Young People, Families, and Schools

Please Sign In



“All will be good”

Can we find the fruits of peace for our children?



Can we define bullying?

Bullying Defined

- No universally accepted definition of bullying
- Intentionally aggressive
- Usually repeated
- Power difference between the young people involved
- A problem among youth 18 and under

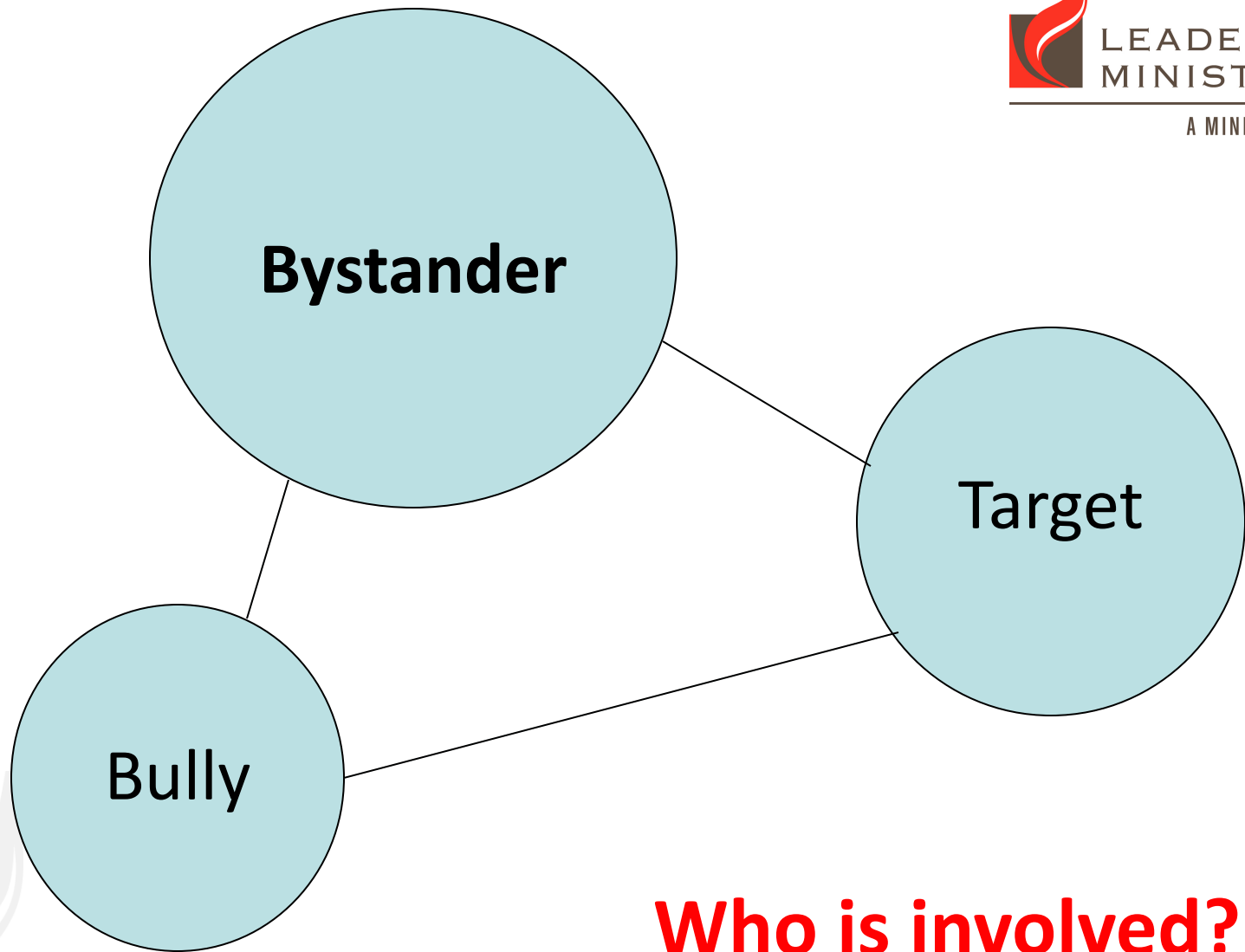
About Bullying

- Bullying has short and long-term effects
- Bullying can escalate quickly
- Bullying must be taken seriously
- Bullying is **ABUSE!**
- Bullying must be addressed

Develop

- Expectations, Rules, Policies
- Covenants





Who is involved?

Bully, Bystander, or Target?



Bully, Bystander, or Target?



Bully, Bystander, or Target?



Bully, Bystander, or Target?



Which one has been targeted?



Which one was bullied as a child?



This mom found out that her child was being bullied because he is “brown”!

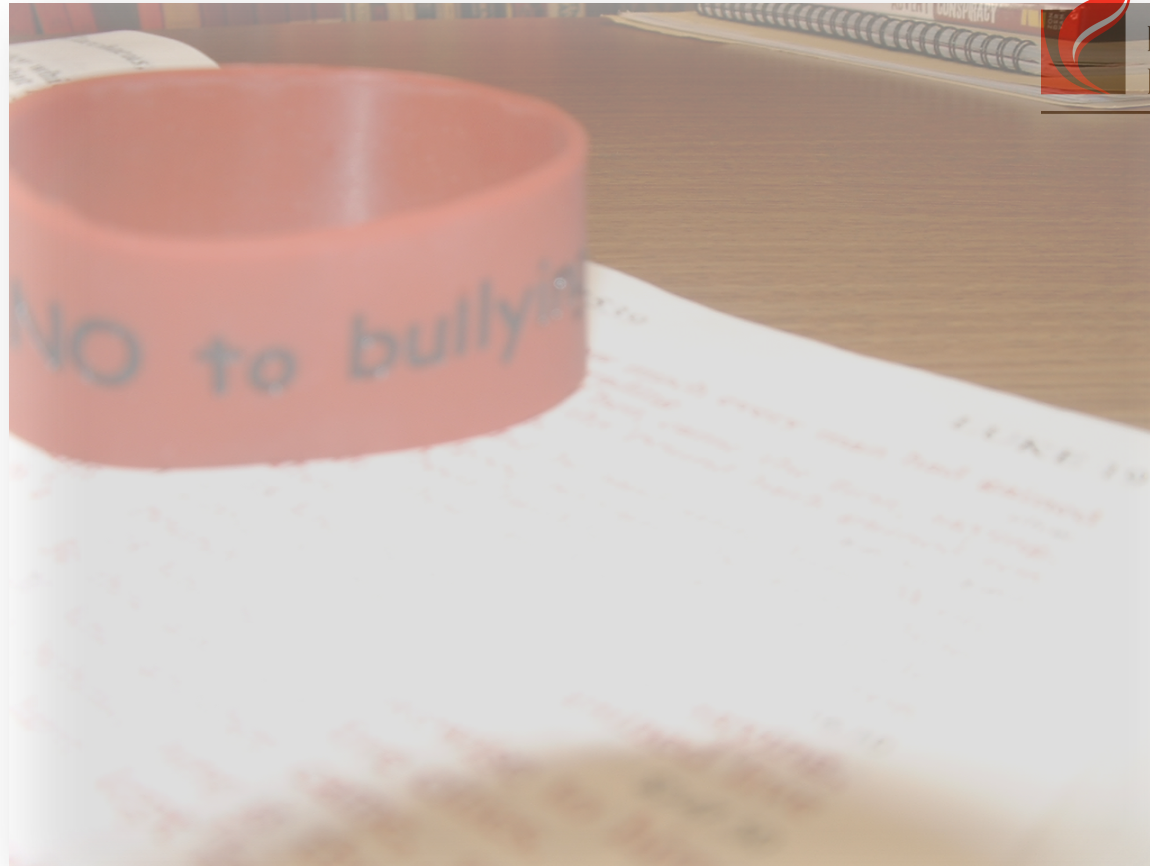


Will this baby be a bystander or will she stand up for herself and others?



Let's Sing Together

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.



Bullying Statistics in US Schools

Statistics and Reality

According to the *American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*:

- Close to half of all children are bullied at some point while they are at primary or secondary school
- At least **10 percent** of children are bullied *regularly*

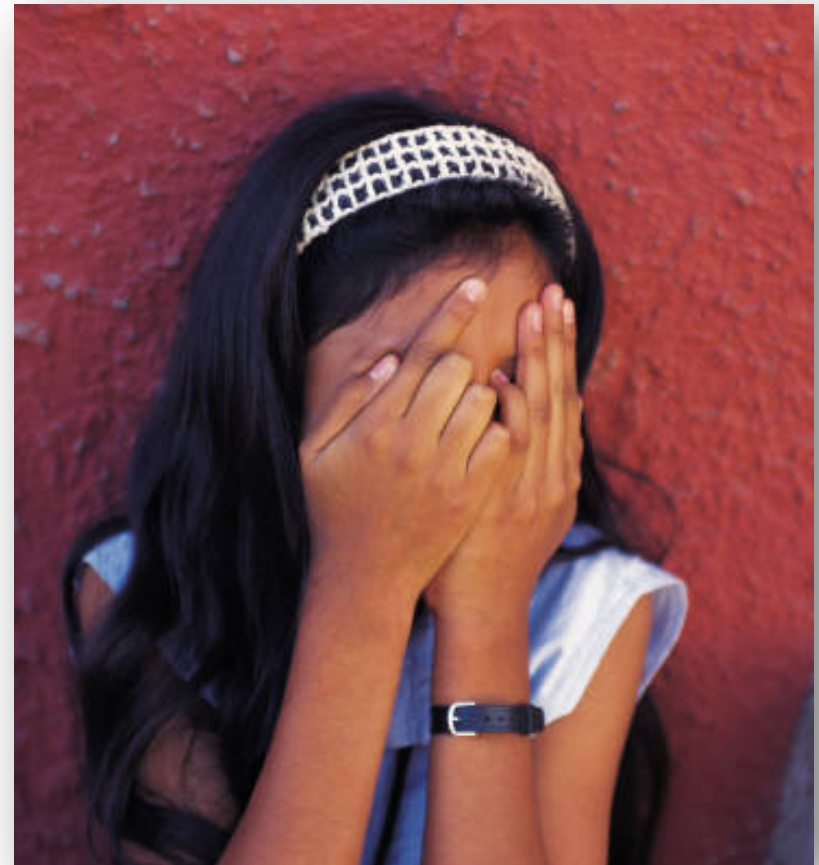
How Many Young People Have Been BULLIED?

28% of U.S. students in grades 6–12 experienced bullying
20% of U.S. students in grades 9–12 experienced bullying



How Many Young People Have **BULLIED** Others?

Approximately **30%** of young people admit to bullying others in surveys



How Many Young People Have Witnessed BULLYING?

70.6% of young people say they have seen bullying in their schools **41%** witness bullying once a week or more When bystanders intervene, bullying stops within 10 seconds **57%** of the time



Online Statistics and Reality

- Girls are somewhat more likely than boys to be involved in cyber bullying **Why?**
- More than 1 in 3 young people have been threatened online
- The average 8-year-old is exposed to some form of media 56 hours a week

What happened to Shelby?



6% of students in grades 6–12 experienced cyberbullying **16%** of high school students (grades 9–12) were electronically bullied in the past year **55.2%** of LGBT students experienced cyberbullying

What Middle School Students Experience

- name calling (44.2 %)
- teasing (43.3 %)
- spreading rumors or lies (36.3%)
- pushing or shoving (32.4%)
- hitting, slapping, or kicking (29.2%)
- leaving out (28.5%)
- threatening (27.4%)
- stealing belongings (27.3%)
- sexual comments or gestures (23.7%)
- e-mail or blogging (9.9%)



Bullying is Violence

Why should we take bullying seriously?

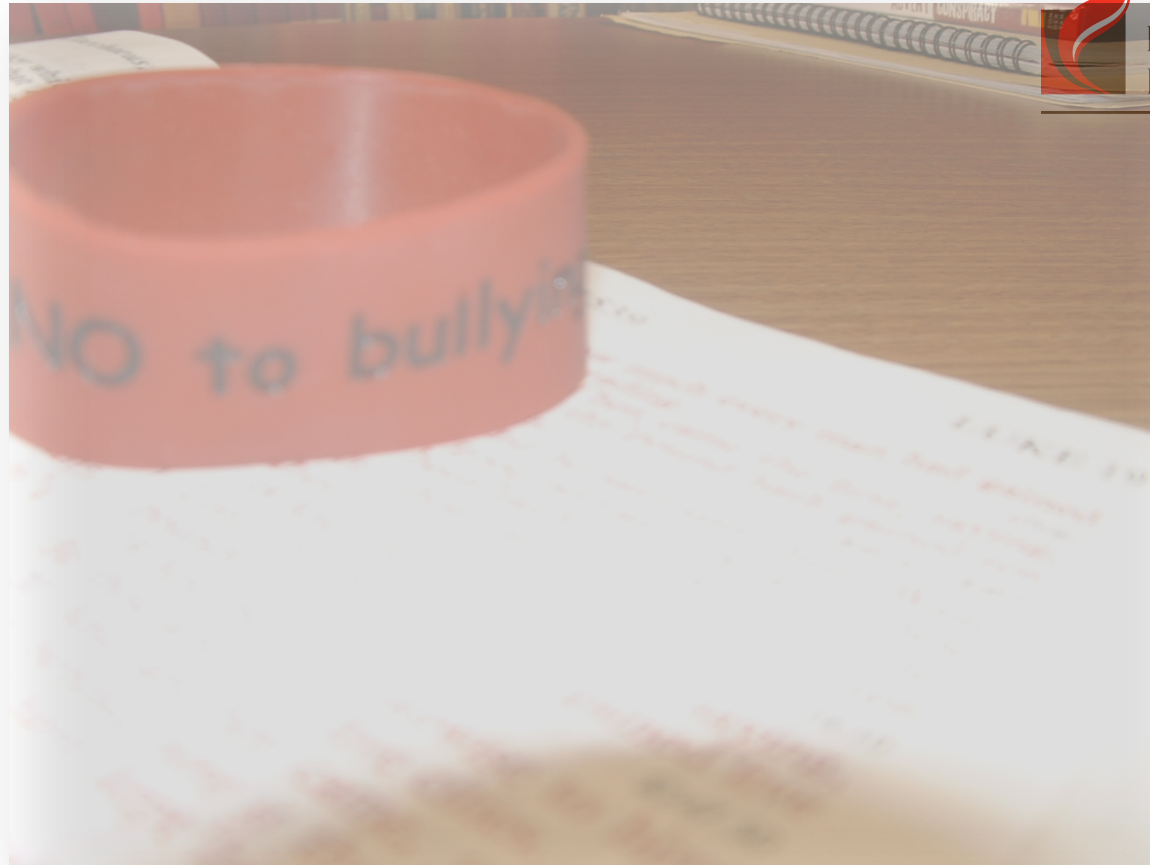


Let's Sing Together

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to
thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!



Impact of Bullying on Identity

Face to Face

The Developing Brain



What else is going on as the brain develops?

Face to Face

Developing Empathy



What are some of the distractions that interfere with face-to-face time with our children?

Face to Face

Deepening Relationships



Think back to your own childhood. With the EXCEPTION of you parents, what adults did you trust?



**What do children born Post
9/11 deal with that we did not?**

State of Children – Poverty



Despite great wealth, the U.S. has one of the highest rates of child poverty among industrialized countries.

**Annual income below \$23,492 for a family of 4*

State of Children – Gun Violence



U.S. children and teens were 17 times more likely to be killed by a gun than children in 25 other high-income countries combined

State of Children – Education



66% of all public school eighth graders are unable to read or compute at grade level

Changes in Media



- No voices
- Limited time available

Changes in Media



- More accessible
- More human characteristics

Changes in Media



- Accessible anytime
- Even more human characteristics

Adult Behavior



- What happened to sportsmanship?
- Intensity of sporting events

Adult Behavior



- What happened to compromise?
- Leaders who need to be right at any expense

Adult Behavior



- What happened to cries in the sanctuary?
- Congregations ignoring the needs of children

How are relationships developing?

- Children learn to treat themselves and others as objects, leading to more **bullying** and acting out.
- They seem fine when they are side-by-side with remote controls, but when they have to interact they lack skills to interact and self-regulate.
- They lack compassion, and it is not their fault.
- They learn meanness early because they have not learned to connect to another child's feelings.

What bad example have you set for children this week?

For **CHILDREN**, what are the stressors of today?

- Information overload from diverse media sources
- Lack of quality time with family
- Over Scheduling
- Lack of skills that help them “live in the tension”

Discuss other stressors in your community

- Striving for **PERFECTION**, seen in magazines, videos, and reality shows... not the perfect love of God we seek as disciples of Jesus Christ

Let's Sing Together

We shall overcome

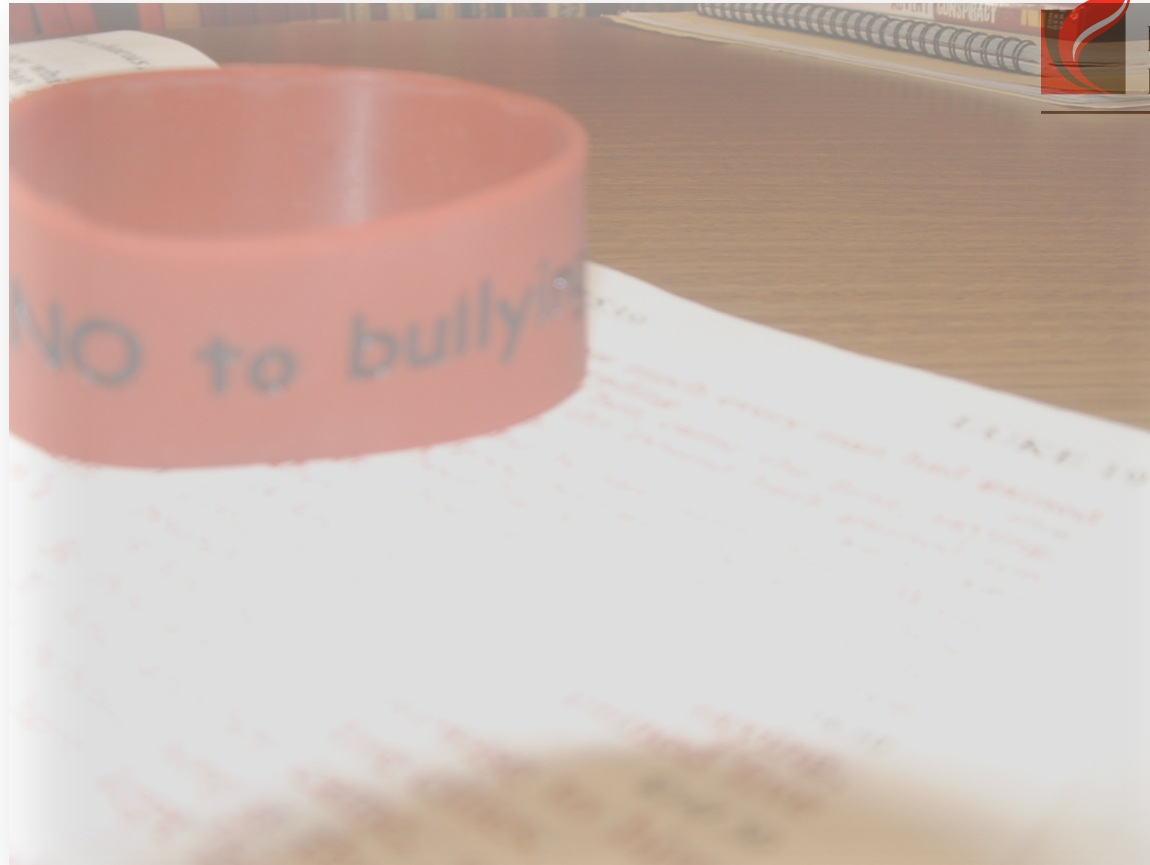
We shall overcome

We shall overcome some day

Oh, deep in my heart

I do believe

We shall overcome some day



Our Christian Responsibility

A Lesson From the Old Testament

The First Children

Different

Jealousy

Hate

Violence

Can all be good?



Lessons from Jesus

The Good Samaritan

Mercy

Do Likewise

Action



Remember Our Baptismal Covenant

“With God's help we will proclaim the good news and *live according to the example of Christ... we are one in Christ Jesus*”
– *UM Baptismal Covenant*



Lessons from John Wesley

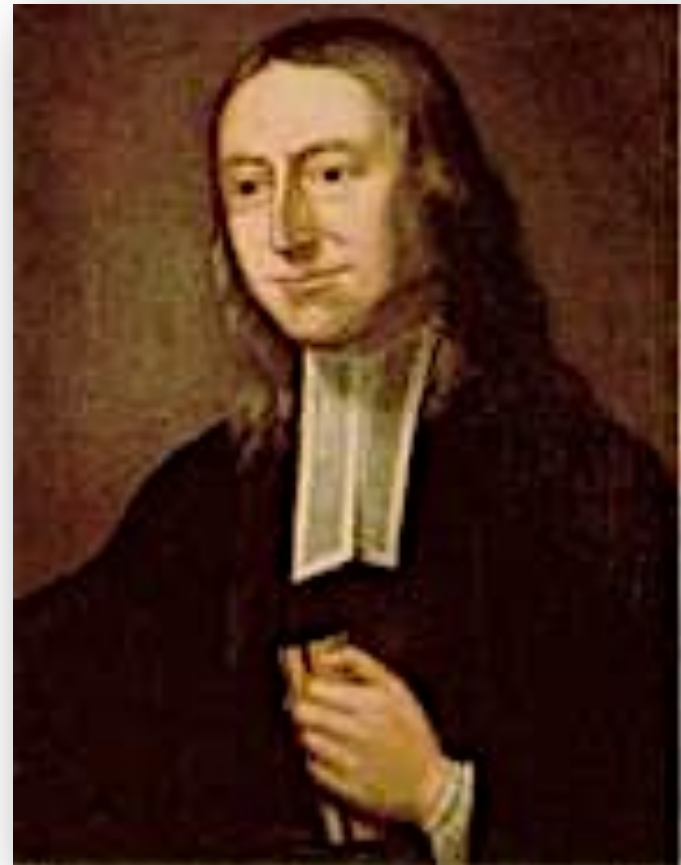
Nurture and Mission

Social Holiness

Community

The Other

Action

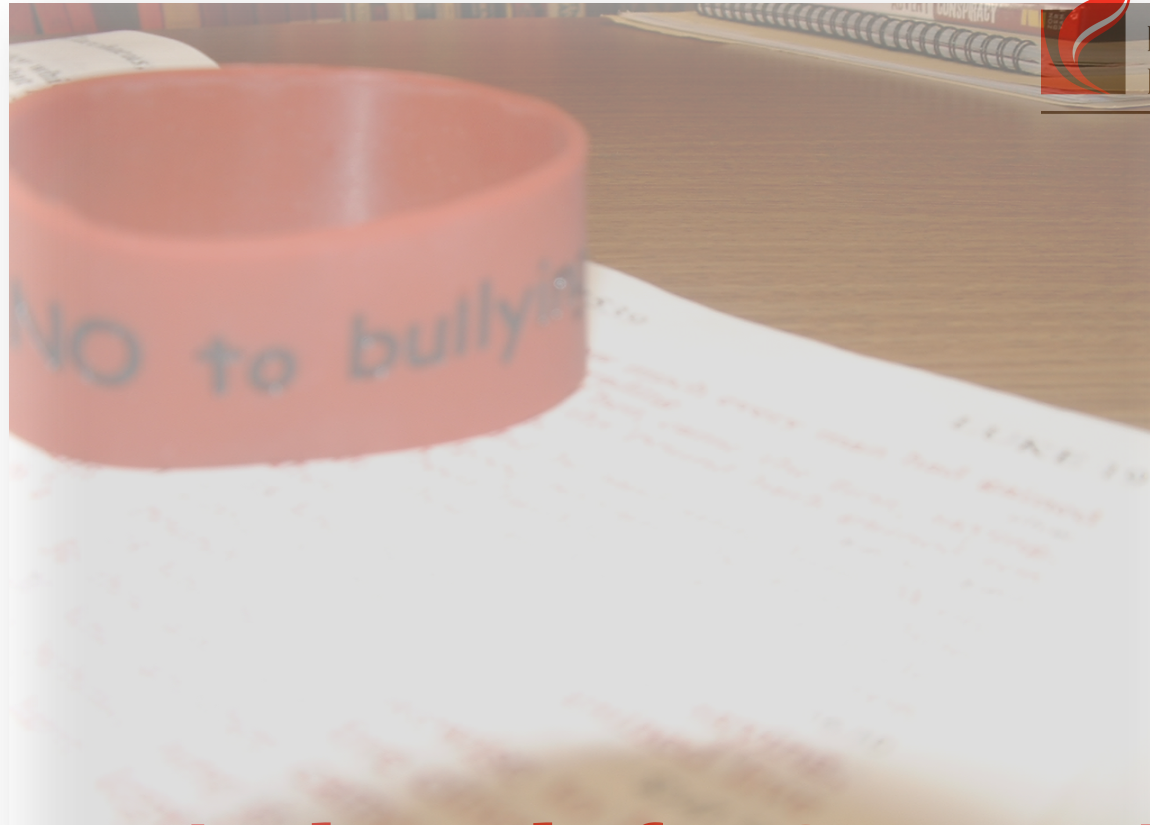


A Lesson from Martin

No More Hurting People



What is one lesson of peace that you can share with a group of children?



Practical Tools for Supporting Young People, Families, and Schools

How do we fix it?

5 Week Study

Holy Living

What we want



What we need

What is easy



What is difficult

Band-Aid[®]



Tourniquet

Temporary



Lasting

Faithful Response to Bullying

Loving God and Neighbor
is not just a slogan...



and loving yourself is key!

Do bullies love themselves?

- View **violence** positively as the solution to most problems
- Show **aggression** toward adults as well as other children
- Need to **dominate** others and **control** situations
- Show **little sympathy** to others who are being bullied, or who are having problems

Some Risk Factors for Aggressive Behavior

- Previous aggressive or violent behavior
- Being the victim of physical abuse and/or sexual abuse
- Exposure to violence in the home and/or community
- Exposure to violence in media (TV, movies, etc.)
- Use of drugs and/or alcohol
- Presence of firearms in home
- Combination of stressful family socioeconomic factors - poverty, severe deprivation, marital breakup, etc.

How do we identify child who has been targeted?

- Becoming withdrawn from activities
- Showing fear in specific situations
- Avoiding certain individuals
- Decline in participation
- Speaking of another child with fear
- Noticeable decline in how the child sees him or her self
- Signs of physical altercations, such as bruises, scrapes and other marks

What about the bystanders?

Bystanders are...

powerful

and *fearful*

Communication and Relationship

- Social Network Friends
 - Negatives
 - Positives

- Face to Face Friends
 - Negatives
 - Positives



Discuss around the table

Communication and Relationship

Prayer Friends Forever

Compassion

Justice

Devotion

Worship



Prayer Friends Forever...



Create a Community of Peace



What does the
Lord require of us?

Create a Community of Nurture



It takes a whole
village to raise a
child

Provide Opportunities for Young People



Connect with
groups and
organizations in
your community

Provide Experiences for Young People



Mission and
Evangelism

Provide Resources for Young People



Young people and families should find answers in the **CHURCH**

Speak the Language

- Cyberbullying can only be tackled if we understand what our kids are doing
- Texting is just one language
- Gaming has a language
- Social Networks have changed how we communicate

Take Action and Stay Informed

- Safe Sanctuaries[®]
- Incorporate bullying into sermons
- Provide education for leaders
- Educate the congregation



Take Action and Stay Informed

- Know where children can go for counseling
- Create and nurture small groups for children
- Develop a Media Use Covenant



Take Action and Stay Informed

- Listen to children
- Empower the bystanders
- Reach out to the bully
- Know the warning signs



Take Action and Stay Informed

- ChildrensDefense.org: *Protect Children, Not Guns*
- Common Sense Media
- Annie E Casey Foundation: *Race for Results*



One Body

“... though there are many of us, we are *one body* in Christ, and individually we belong to each other.”

-Romans 12.5 CEB

Let's Sing Together

One bread, one body,
one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many,
throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Questions

Closing Thoughts



“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Go in Peace...

