What Can You Do?

Topical – Tough Topics (Bullying)

Scope and Sequence

Students will learn what the Bible says about the behavior of a bully and will be encouraged to respond to bullies and the victims of a bully in a Christ-like way.

Lesson Objective

**If you see something, do something.**

Sticky

Statement

Luke 6:27-28

Key Verse

**Bully:** *“seek to harm, intimidate, or coerce (someone perceived as vulnerable)”*

Definitions

**Cyberbullying:** *“the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature”*

**Pride:** *“exaggerated view of one’s own importance, love for oneself”*

1. A PowerPoint is available for this lesson.

Checklist

1. “Famous Bullies Quiz” (one per person) (Hook)
2. Writing utensils (one per person) (Hook)
3. A stopwatch (Hook)
4. Optional: a small prize (Hook)

Resources

and

References

1. “Cyberbullying.” *Best Education Degrees.* August 2018. <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS20/44-1/>
2. McCluskey, Megan. “Anti-Bullying PSA From Burger King” *Time Magazine*. October 23, 2017. <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS20/44-2/>
3. Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary.* Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 1985. 917.
4. NoBully: <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS20/44-3/>
5. The Religion and Politics Blog <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS20/44-4/>
6. Axis Ministries: [www.axis.org](http://www.axis.org)
7. Christianity Today, “3 Practical Ways to Show Love to Your Enemies:” <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS20/44-5/>

*\*Not all of the websites listed in this lesson are affiliated with or sponsored by Word of Life. The sites should be used only for reference or resource purposes and may contain content not endorsed by Word of Life.*

LESSON OVERVIEW

**Bully:** *“seek to harm, intimidate, or coerce (someone perceived as vulnerable)”*

**Cyberbullying: “***the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature”*

1. Bullies in the **Bible** (Luke 10:25-37)
2. The **Biblical** Teaching About Bullying
3. How does God feel about **bullying**? (Proverbs 6:16-19)
   1. Proud look (v. 17)

**Pride:** *“exaggerated view of one’s own importance, love for oneself”*

* 1. Lying tongue (v. 17)
  2. Hands that shed innocent blood (v. 17)
  3. A heart that devises wicked plans (v. 18)
  4. Feet that are swift in running to evil (v. 18)
  5. A false witness who speaks lies (v. 19)
  6. One who sows discord among brethren (v. 19)

1. Does God **care** about those who are bullied? (Luke 10:25-37)
2. How a **Christian** should respond to bullying (Luke 10:25-37; 6:27-36; Romans 5:8)
3. Responding to those who have been **bullied**.
   1. **See** them (Luke 10:33)
   2. **Care** about them (Luke 10:33)
   3. Meet **immediate** needs (Luke 10:34)
   4. Maintain **future** friendships (Luke 10:35)
4. Responding to the **bullies** (Luke 6:27-36)
   1. **Bless** them. (Luke 6:28)
   2. **Pray** for them. (Luke 6:28)
   3. Do **good** to them. (Luke 6:27)

**If you see something, do something.**

HOOK

Teacher’s Note: *Prior to teaching the lesson, make enough copies of the “Famous Bullies Quiz” for each person to have one. Before the lesson begins, make sure everyone has a writing utensil and a copy of the quiz. Be sure to tell the students not to look at the quiz until you tell them to begin. Give time for students to complete the quiz. This can be done individually or in teams. Optional idea: provide a prize for the winning person or team. Take no more than 3 minutes for the students to fill out their answers. Be sure to set a stopwatch and give them verbal warnings as the time winds down.*

As we begin tonight, we are going to give you a short quiz. That’s right, a pop quiz, right here in church! Don’t worry, this won’t affect your GPA. We just want to see if you can match some famous bullies to their movies or TV shows. Does everyone have a copy of the quiz? You have about three minutes to match them up. Ready, set, go!

*[At the 30-second mark, yell out that they have 30 seconds to be done.]* You have 30 seconds! Match them up. Get your answers on the paper.

*[At the 10-second mark, count from 10 down to 0 and tell everyone to stop.]* Alright, time’s up! Let’s see how many you got right.Here are the answers.

1. **E** – Toy Story 3
2. **F** – Home Alone
3. **I** – Goofy
4. **J** – Aladdin
5. **A** – Diary of a Wimpy Kid
6. **G** – Wonder
7. **B** – Karate Kid
8. **H** – Beauty and the Beast
9. **C** – Popeye
10. **D** – Cinderella

**Tiebreaker** (If needed – the first to yell it out wins.): In what movie would you find a bully named Draco Malfoy? **Answer:** Harry Potter

*[Recognize your winner or winners and reward them if desired.]*

Bullies in movies and on TV shows are pretty common. It is a reflection of what happens around you every day. Unfortunately, most of the bullies in the movies are the source of humor, but bullying is no laughing matter. If you have ever been the victim of bullying, you know all too well that it is not funny.

Just so we know what we are talking about, let’s define the term. We are going to use a broad definition of the term bully tonight. *“Bully”* or, to bully someone, means *“seek to harm, intimidate, or coerce (someone perceived as vulnerable).”* Don’t raise your hand, but have you ever been the victim of bullying? It is likely that most of you have experienced bullying in some way. Fortunately, our world is beginning to wake up to the seriousness of bullying. Websites like ***www.nobully.org*** are trying to spread the word with a clear message. “If you see something, say something.” Too many kids and teens are being bullied; don’t turn a blind eye to it.

According to [www.nobully.org](http://www.nobully.org), “***thirty-percent*** of school kids ***worldwide*** are bullied each year.” For American young people, bullying is the ***number one*** act of violence they face. Bullies have a way of making others feel less important than themselves. It could be because of the clothes you wear, the way you talk, your skin color, what you believe, or simply the fact that you looked at someone when they didn’t want you to.

Regrettably, as a result of the growth of technology, it has become even easier for bullies to find victims. Now, the bully can hide behind a computer screen or smartphone and spew their hateful message through the use of the internet.

*“Cyberbullying, the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature,”* has become the new playground for cowards who want to bully others. Sure, physical playgrounds, lunchrooms, locker rooms, hallways, and neighborhoods are full of bullies, but now, your profile, username, or story is not even safe from ridicule, shaming, and cruel treatment from bullies.

Our lesson tonight is part of the four-lesson series called *“Deal With It: A Biblical Approach to Tough Topics.”* The goal of the *“Deal With It”* series is to do what most are afraid to do with a difficult topic, deal with it. Tonight’s focus will be on learning the ***biblical approach*** to dealing with bullies.

Teacher’s Note: *Sometimes in life, we don’t know how to deal with issues. Things like divorce, death, tragedy, and bullying are difficult topics, but subjects that need to be discussed. More importantly, they need to be discussed from a biblical perspective so we know what God thinks about the subject and how He would have us respond. Once you have some biblical direction on how to deal with these issues, God can really work in and through your life. The lessons in the “Deal With It” series are written so we can understand the biblical approach to tough topics, talk about them, and respond in a Christ-like manner.*

If you have had to deal with a bully, no doubt, you have thought of some piercing questions. How are you going to handle bullies in your life? Does the Bible have anything to say about bullying? The Bible was written long before we had computers; can it possibly have anything to say about cyberbullying? Does God care about those who are being bullied?

Before we get to how you can deal with bullies, let’s begin by exploring “bullies” in the Bible and what God has to say about bullying behavior.

LESSON CONTENT

1. Bullies in the **Bible** (Luke 10:25-37)

Let’s take a quick tour through the pages of Scripture on what we will call a “bully tour.” It starts at the very beginning, in Genesis 3, with a serpent’s lies. Satan was looking for someone who was vulnerable. He only had two choices, Adam or Eve. He chose to coerce Eve into participating in doing something that brought great harm, more harm than she could have ever imagined.

But the bullying didn’t stop there. As you search the Old Testament, you’ll see violence with Cain and Abel; Cain killed his own brother (Genesis 4:8). Joseph was the victim of major bullying behavior from his brothers (Genesis 37). Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, plotted a genocide of baby boys (Exodus 5-12). The future King David faced the bullying tactics of both the Philistine warrior Goliath and King Saul (1 Samuel 17-18). Haman worked to annihilate a whole race of people (Esther 3:8-9). Little kids even tried to “bully” the prophet Elisha (which did not work out well for them) (2 Kings 2:23-24).

The “bully tour” continues in the New Testament. At the birth of Jesus, King Herod conducted a baby-killing campaign (Matthew 2:16). Herodias, the illegitimate wife of King Herod, hated John the Baptist’s message and concocted a scheme to have him beheaded (Mark 6:17-19). Jesus was victimized by no fault of His own (Matthew 27:3). Saul of Tarsus was responsible for the death of Stephen and the arrest of many others as a result of their religious beliefs (Acts 7:54-9:2).

As we end this brief tour, it is important to remember that this list of bullying in the Bible was by no means exhaustive. There were many more examples of bullying throughout the Bible.

The point is that bullies are not new creatures of today. They may use new methods, different words, or technology to bully, but it’s no different than the evil behavior reported in God’s Word. In fact, Jesus Himself told the story of a man who was bullied. Much like the storylines of our modern-day movies that contain content with which we can relate, Jesus used a situation His listeners would understand to teach a valuable lesson. Let’s turn to Luke 10 and check out that story.

Teacher’s Note: *Read Luke 10:25-37. Optional ideas: Instead of reading the story yourself, have three students take turns reading every third verse in Luke 10:25-37 or simply tell the story of the Good Samaritan.*

In an answer to the question, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus answered with a story about a man who was attacked by robbers. A priest and a Levite, the religious guys of the day, saw the hurt man on the side of the road but decided to walk right past rather than help him. Finally, a Good Samaritan bandaged his wounds and paid for a place for him to stay and recover. That was a remarkable turn of events since the Samaritans and Jews despised each other!

Did you see it? A classic example of bullying, a man is physically beaten, but look closely. There are bullies in this story and those who passively condone bullying or are simply indifferent to it. First, we have some sort of undeserved violence or hurtful behavior. Then, we have those who walk by and don’t help the victim. Thankfully, in this story, we have someone who was willing to do something, even though they were enemies. The Samaritan treated the injured man like a neighbor, a friend. Jesus’ message was this – be a neighbor to those in need. **If you see something, do something.** Again, this was a made-up story, but one that the people of Jesus’ day could relate to because bullying was nothing new. It taught a valuable lesson. **If you see something, do something.**

Since the Bible seems to be full of stories about bullies, does this mean that God approves? How does God feel about bullying?

1. The **Biblical** Teaching About Bullying

The fact that the Bible records stories about bullies, both fictional and non-fictional, doesn’t mean that God approves of the actions of a bully.

1. How does God feel about **bullying**? (Proverbs 6:16-19)

The short answer to the question, “How does God feel about bullying?” is this, He hates it! Bullying, while it is a visible and outward action, is really an issue of the heart. There are behaviors that stem out of the heart. We can see these heart issues clearly in Proverbs 6:16-19. *[Have a student read Proverbs 6:16-19.]*

These verses describe a bully’s behavior pretty clearly. Here we find a list of seven behaviors that God hates. Let’s see how many of them are connected to the actions or attitudes of a bully.

Teacher’s Note: *Optional group dynamic: Instead of lecturing through the following content, you could simply list each of the actions or attitudes and ask, “How do the actions of a bully demonstrate this?” For example, “How do the actions of a bully demonstrate a proud look?” [Allow the students to answer.] “How can the action of a bully demonstrate a lying tongue?” [Allow the students to answer.]*

* 1. Proud look (v. 17)

Let’s begin with *“pride,”* which is an *“exaggerated view of one’s own importance, love for oneself.”* It all seems to start there. Oftentimes, bullies either see themselves as better than everyone else, or they have an issue when someone else is better than them. For many bullies, insecurity runs deep and they are too proud to deal with their own self-doubt. The result is hatred and lashing out on others.

* 1. Lying tongue (v. 17)

Have you ever been at the center of a ***rumor*** that is completely devastating to your reputation? That’s the work of a bully and the result of a dangerous lie. God hates lying, and bullies tend to thrive on dishonesty.

* 1. Hands that shed innocent blood (v. 17)

Unfortunately, violence can be part of bullying behavior. A push into the lockers, getting jumped after school, or worse, has been known to happen at the hands of bullies. Almost all of the bullies that we listed from the Bible on our “bully tour” had some type of intent to kill.

* 1. A heart that devises wicked plans (v. 18)

Bullies can be quite creative in their schemes to humiliate and torment others. They are often masters at developing elaborate plans to make their victims miserable or suffer. It can make you wonder, “Where do they come up with these ideas? How can someone be so evil?”

* 1. Feet that are swift in running to evil (v. 18)

It almost seems like the bullies are always faster and always running towards evil. It’s like you try to escape, but they seem to be around every corner. Especially with the internet, it is difficult to escape bullying, and they always seem to catch up to you.

* 1. A false witness who speaks lies (v. 19)

Again with the lying. It is obvious that God is not a fan of dishonesty. Bullies use lies to their advantage. Whether it is to make their victim’s life more miserable, or in this case, lie to get out of trouble. When they are caught, they find ways to bend the truth to get out of trouble or make authority think they are the victim. Bullies can be masters of deceit, which makes it hard to detect and confirm.

* 1. One who sows discord among brethren (v. 19)

A bully is someone who seems to enjoy the friction. The bully will gladly drive a wedge between friends and break down relationships. Just look at what the ultimate bully, Satan, did to the relationship between Adam and Eve. He brought sin, shame, and division. Bullies will follow the lead of the serpent and encourage sin, relish in the embarrassment and shame of their victim, and hope for division. For most bullies, they get some twisted pleasure in the pain of others and watching relationships break apart.

The amazing thing about God is this, He hates the act of bullying, but loves the bully! When Jesus died on the cross, His death paid the penalty for all sin, including bullying. “For God so loved the world” (John 3:16), even the bullies!

1. Does God **care** about those who are bullied? (Luke 10:25-37)

To find out the answer to this question, let’s revisit Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan. After Jesus told His story, He asked the crowd to identify the person who acted neighborly. When they identified the Good Samaritan as the good neighbor, as the one who showed mercy, Jesus told them to “Go and do likewise.” His message, in essence, was, **“If you see something, do something.”**

Does God care about those who are bullied? Jesus’ story is clear; God cares about those who are bullied so much that He told His children to show the love of Christ to the hurting. He calls us to care for those who are in need.

This may seem like a silly thing to ask, but did you notice that Jesus included the act of bullying in His story? He could have told us to show love by telling any story He wanted. Just by the fact that He included it in His story tells us that He is fully aware that people choose to commit the sin of bullying. He didn’t ignore reality. The people of His day could relate.

Jesus didn’t cause the bullying of His day. It was a reality back then just like it is a reality now. He taught us that we are to be the agents of action when it happens. God cares about those who are bullied and calls us to care enough to do something about it. **If you see something, do something.**

Bullies can cause some major damage. The effects of bullying can be devastating and can have a great deal of effect on the person who is bullied. Duke University did a study on the effects of bullying. The study showed, “those who were bullied during childhood fared much worse on a variety of psychological measures, including susceptibility to depression, *[and]* anxiety.”

According to an article entitled *“*Cyberbullying*”* by Best Education Degrees, suicide is three times more likely in cyberbullying victims and two times more likely in offline bullying victims. You can see why God would hate this type of behavior. Someone created in the image of God is being harmed with every act of bullying. God hates to see those created in His image being treated like they are of little value. God loves those who have been bullied.

Teacher’s Note: *If time allows, feel free to share this modern-day example of a made-up scenario to teach a point. For more research, see the following site:* [*https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS20/44-2/*](https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS20/44-2/)*.*

*The tactic that Jesus used, making up a scenario to teach a lesson, was used by the Burger King Corporation in 2017. In October of 2017, Burger King did a social experiment at one of their restaurants as part of the No Bully campaign. They staged a group of young actors bullying a junior in high school, right in the middle of the restaurant while real customers ordered and ate their meals. While the bullying was going on, the customers were sold Whopper Jr. burgers that were “bullied,” mangled up on purpose, by the workers. While the junior in high school was being bullied, they would open the wrapper to their Whopper Jr. to find the burger beaten up and mangled.*

*The result of the experiment was astounding. Ninety-five percent of the customers reported the “bullied” sandwich, but only 12% stood up for the teenager who was being bullied. Over 80% of the people cared more about the burger than a defenseless, bullied young man. We need more people willing to stand up for the bullied. Bullying can have some very negative and long-lasting effects.*

So how should we respond?

CONNECTION

1. How a **Christian** should respond to bullying (Luke 10:25-37; 6:27-36; Romans 5:8)

The answer is simple; **if you see something, do something.** Let’s return to Jesus’ story in Luke 10.

1. Responding to those who have been **bullied**.

Hypothetical scenario: You’re in the hallway of your school and you know it’s coming. The meanest bully in your school, with his groupies, heads toward the freshman lockers. There he finds his next victim. He slams the books out of the poor kid’s hands, empties his backpack on the floor, and calls him awful names. What is your reaction? Don’t answer out loud, but how do you respond? The passage in Luke 10 gives us a pattern to follow.

* 1. **See** them (Luke 10:33)

Many times, we are “just too busy” with our own lives to even recognize the people in our own lives who are hurting as a result of bullying or cyberbullying. Be alert. Pay attention. There may be someone desperately desiring for someone to just recognize that they have been hurt. Don’t ignore. In our hypothetical case, you saw ***it***, but did you see ***them***? **If you see something, do something**, but you will never do something if you don’t care.

* 1. **Care** about them (Luke 10:33)

It is one thing to see a victim of bullying, it is another to care. In Jesus’ story, when the Samaritan saw the man, he had compassion on him. When you see that someone is the victim of bullying or cyberbullying, do you care, or do you ignore? Or even worse, do you join in, spread the rumor, perpetuate the hurt? In our hypothetical situation, what did you feel? Do you care enough to do something?

* 1. Meet **immediate** needs (Luke 10:34)

In Jesus’ story, the Samaritan met the immediate needs, specifically, the ones that he could meet. What are some needs of the victim of bullying in our hypothetical situation? *[Allow the students to respond.]*

● They need someone to speak up as the bullying is happening.

● They need someone to help pick them up (physically).

● They need someone to help pick up the books and the backpack.

● They may need an advocate (to go with them to report the action to authority).

● They need a friend.

One of the most difficult times to demonstrate love is when you have the chance of being hurt yourself. Since Jesus’ story was made up to teach a point, we don’t know if the Samaritan was running the risk of being beaten as well. Probably not, since Jesus said that the robbers, “departed” (Luke 10:30). Again, it was a story. But what everyone who heard the story knew was this, the Samaritan made himself socially vulnerable and financially vulnerable to demonstrate compassion for someone who was hurting. He saw something and did something; he showed love.

* 1. Maintain **future** friendships (Luke 10:35)

When it is possible, let the victim see that your compassion was not just a one-time event. Find ways to maintain, even cultivate, the friendship in the future. Show the victim the love of Christ. It will take effort on your part, but this is how you can practically show love to a victim of bullying.

1. Responding to the **bullies** (Luke 6:27-36)

Here’s another hypothetical situation. You know you have to study for a math test tonight, but your phone starts going off like crazy. Most of the text messages start off with, “Is it true you…?” You can’t believe what you are reading. A rumor is spread all over school that will completely ruin your reputation. You trace it all the way back to the source, and you’re not surprised who started it all. Yep, it was her!

In the Bible, there is no line drawn for who we are to love. We are commanded to love both the bullied and the bully. Turn to Luke 6, and we will find this direct command from the lips of Jesus. It will help us understand how to deal with the bullies themselves.

*[Read out loud Luke 6:27-28.]*

Once again, **if you see something, do something**; only this may be harder than speaking up for when someone is bullied. What should we do when we see that someone is a bully? We are to love them!

You may be thinking, “Let me get this straight. The bully, who makes my life miserable, who spread those rumors, who caused me pain…you want me to love that person?” Exactly! Where does Jesus get an idea like that? Well, He lived it. Jesus lived a perfect life, did nothing wrong, yet He was beaten, spit on, and nailed to a cross for who? His enemies, that’s who. *[Read Romans 5:8.]*

God loves the bullies, and until we trusted in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we were the bully. In fact, the Bible describes us as the “enemies” of God (Romans 5:10). Wait! What? That’s right, it was our sin that nailed Jesus to the cross. We, until we give our lives to God, are full of everything God hates – sin. Even though God hates sin, He still loves us. God loves us so much that He was willing to die for that sin, the sinner, and yes, even the bullies.

What does that mean for you? The bully that calls you names, spews hate, ruins your reputation, and causes you to fill your pillow with tears at night…God says to love them! Listen to the end of that passage. *[Read Luke 6:35-36.]* There it is again! Love your enemies and be merciful to them! Why? “For He is kind to the unthankful and evil” (Luke 6:36). Love the bullies!

“But how? That is just church talk, right? You don’t really expect me to show love for a bully, do you?” Well, actually, **if you see something, do something.** You can ***see*** that they are a bully, what can you ***do*** to get you started loving your enemies, loving the bullies? It may sound “religious” or “churchy,” but there really is no way for you to love a bully without God’s help. Let’s go back to the verses in Luke 6. *[Re-read Luke 6:28.]*

* 1. **Bless** them. (Luke 6:28)

Bless them. This might be one of the toughest things you will ever do, but this is where it starts. **If you see something, do something**. The thing to ***do*** is to begin to choose to bless them. Use your mouth and find some way to speak life to them. To be clear, this is not just when bullying is happening or an “after-the-fact,” “spur-of-the-moment,” “I am blessing you” kind of thing. No, this is being proactive. Actively choose to be friendly even when bullying is not happening at the moment.

* 1. **Pray** for them. (Luke 6:28)

Pray for yourself and pray for the bully. First, pray that God will protect you, protect your heart, and protect your thoughts. Then pray for the bully. In your prayers, ask God to help you bless them and help you do good to them.

* 1. Do **good** to them. (Luke 6:27)

Find a way to do good to them. *[Re-read Luke 6:27.]* After Jesus tells us to love, He immediately gives us a practical way to show love, a practical way to do something. He says to “do good.”

It’s very likely the bully needs Jesus in their heart and life. And as the saying goes, you may be the only Bible they read or Jesus they see. You could be the light in their dark world. It could be that they have a tough home life or have been bullied themselves in the past. It doesn’t justify their actions at all, but in the end, they need God’s love just as much as you do. You could be the one that shares that love with them.

There are times when every effort to speak life and do good simply does not stop a bully from his/her behavior. To be very clear, you should know that informing the proper authorities of the behavior is ***doing good*** for the bully. With cyberbullies, it is ***doing good*** to block them from your sites and report the conduct.

It is “good” for the bully to face the repercussions of his/her actions through the proper chain of command. Many times, change cannot happen until the bully receives the consequences of his/her actions. **If you see something, do something**; one of the most loving things to ***do*** is inform the authorities.

CHOICE

We will never experience being bullied to the degree of Jesus the day of His crucifixion. Yet, Jesus showed mercy, love, and forgiveness. Tormented, ridiculed, and violently persecuted, Jesus was a picture of love and grace on that cross. He was able to see ***hearts*** that needed a Savior, not ***bullies*** who wanted the “King of the Jews” to die on a cross.

Responding in a Christ-like manner is easier said than done, you’re not Jesus. For those who have ever suffered at the hands of a bully, the last thing you ***want*** to do is love that person that has caused you so much pain. Just like with any other situation in life, it’s best to look to Jesus for help to respond in a way that doesn’t come naturally.

Will you ask God to help you see both the victims and the bullies the way He does? Will you ask Him to help you respond to both victims and bullies in a Christ-like manner? If so, you could pray something like this:

Dear God, help me to see hearts that need a Savior. Help me, when I see bullying happening, to do something. Help me to respond in a Christ-like manner.

Teacher’s Note: *Allow the students to talk to God about how they respond to bullies and victims. Feel free to adapt this in a way that is appropriate for your group.*

NEXT STEPS

If you are going to speak life to a bully, you will need to be prepared. Make a list of different things you could say to speak the love of Christ to a bully. Be proactive in this. Find ways to speak the love of Christ even when bullying isn’t actively happening. Also, set a reminder to yourself to actively be looking for those who need compassion. Each day this week ask God to open your eyes to the needs around you.

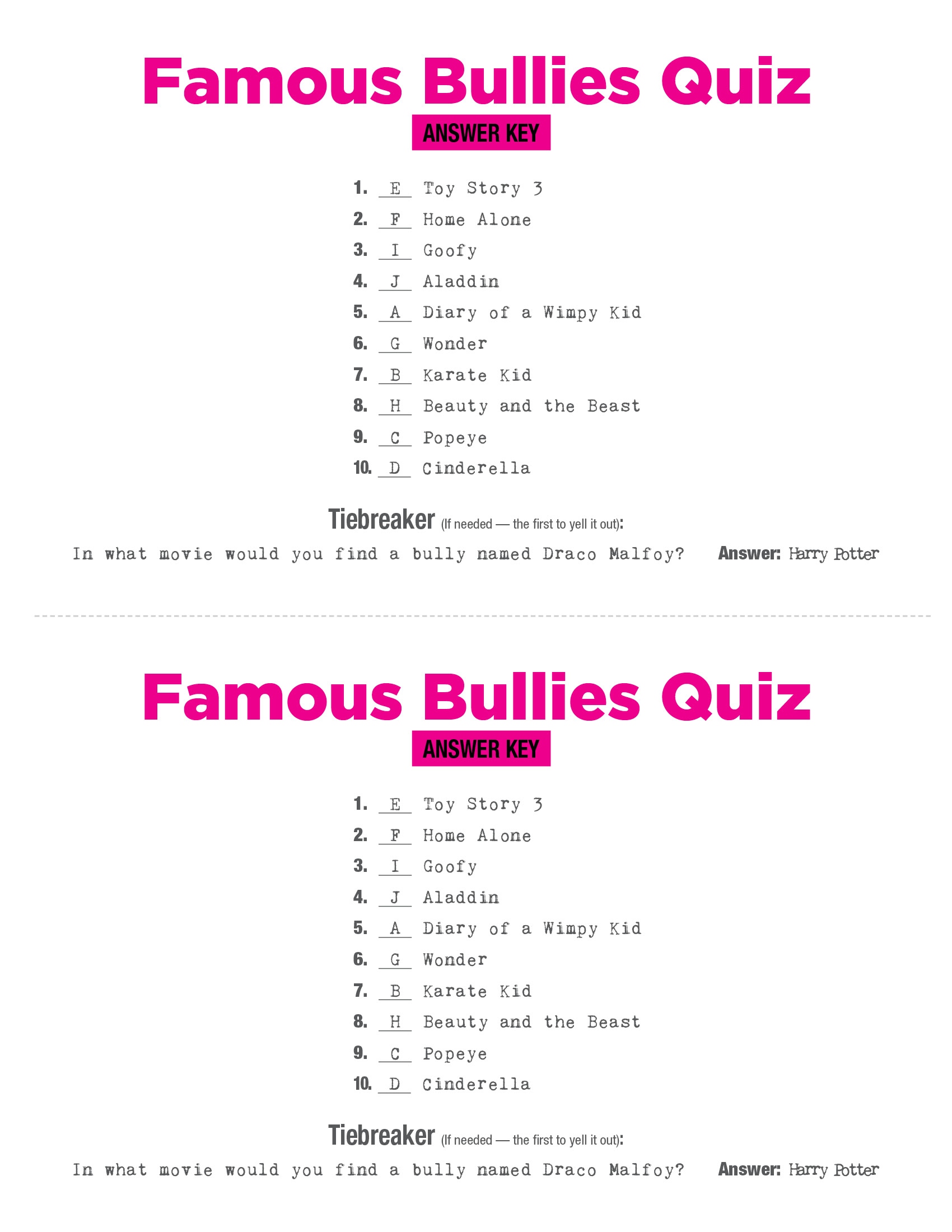
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1. What would you say is your natural reaction to bullying?** *(You may want to have some examples of reactions ready in case the group goes silent, but don’t be afraid of silence. Let the students think through the silence and respond. Answers will vary. Some may find bullying humorous. Some may think it is no big deal. You can mention reactions like anger, retreat or silence, speak up, or compassion if needed. There are many reactions that may be given or even specific examples of bullying they have faced. Allow for open discussion but be sure that any examples do not become an avenue for gossip.)*

**2. What are some steps you need to take in your life to see others as Jesus sees them?** *(This is such a valuable question. Until you see others like Jesus sees people, with compassion, the lessons will fall without any action. Compassion and love will be what stirs the action. The students need to make this a goal, then the actions discussed in the next question will come more naturally. This was the heart of the Choice section. If a student did not make a decision in the Choice section of the lesson, challenge that student to make this their Next Step.)*

**3. What are some specific ways you can show love to a bully?** *(Don’t just allow “church” answers to this question. The lesson gave general principles and pushed toward the practical. Help them think of concrete and measurable ways they can show love to bullies. Not answers like, “Love them,” or, “Be kind,” but actual acts of service and love that can be seen and heard. How can you bless someone? How can you do good? How can you speak up at the risk of being bullied yourself? How can you form friendships? Something they can actually* ***do****. Finish this section with a commitment to actually act this week. Remind the students of the preparation idea suggested in the Next Steps section of the lesson.)*

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