

OBJECTIVE: to help the students understand that respect for their environment and property is a form of respect for themselves.

MATERIALS: 2 identical, large birthday cards. Option: two inexpensive presents.

TEACHER'S NOTE: Plan to do this class on someone's birthday.

ACTIVITY: Pick a student whose birthday it is (plan ahead!). Send this student out on an errand - ie: to the office with attendance, etc.. Instruct the class that when he/she comes back you will pass around a birthday card and/or a present. You will tell the student that it is for the class to sign and/or see; but what you actually want them to do is to cover the card with graffiti or deface it in some way and or break the present. When the student comes back, pass the card (or present) around *-distract the student while this is going on.* Have the last student to work with the card/present bring it up to the Birthday student. Watch his/her reaction. Let him/her respond to the class. Let the Birthday Student in on the conspiracy and discuss the results with the class.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did you feel when you saw the card? Why?
2. How did you feel destroying the card/present? Why?
3. Has anything belonging to you been defaced or destroyed? What? When?
4. How did you feel?
5. Did you retaliate? How?
6. How do you feel when you see writing all over buildings? Your school? The bus?
7. How do you feel about living in a building covered with graffiti? Why?
8. What does it say about the people who live there?
9. Is it alright for someone/gang to tag their turf? Write obscenities?
10. How does it make you feel to see your tag (name) all over buildings? Why?
11. What other things can you do to get that feeling?
12. Do you think people should be punished for defacing public buildings?
13. What would be an appropriate punishment?
14. Would such a punishment make you think before doing it again?
15. How does this destruction of property effect your community?
16. What are some ways that you can help make your neighborhood better?

SUGGESTED READING: 1 John 2:14:17

I have written to you, young people because you are strong, and God's word remains in you and you have overcome the Evil One. Do not love the world or what is in the world. If anyone does love the world, the love of the Father finds no place in him, because everything there is in world--disordered bodily desires, disordered desires of the eyes, pride in possession--is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world, with all its disordered desires, is passing away. But whoever does the will of God remains forever.

WRAP UP: Give the birthday student the second, unharmed card and/or present to take home with them and follow with a small celebration with cake and soda.