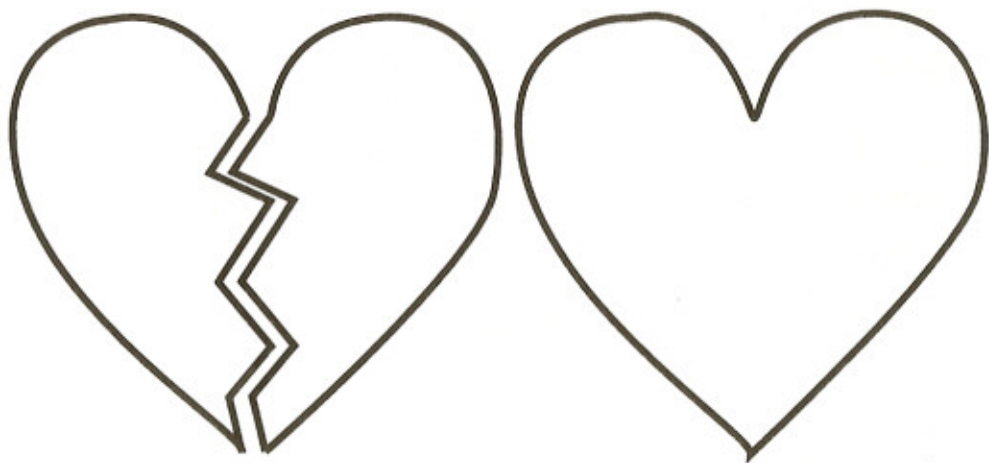




Be Courageous

Sticks and stones may break my bones...
but words can break my heart!



Inside the **broken heart** write some names or things we sometimes say that can make others feel alone, sad, unwanted or left out. Inside the **unbroken heart**, write some things we can say to make others feel good about themselves, happy and wanted.

*The Lord will wipe away the
tears from everyone's eyes.*

Isaiah 25:8

HELP WANTED

Peaceful Productions seeks writers to help TV and movie characters work out problems without violence. Creativity and kindness a must.



Sometimes it is really hard to forgive and work out problems peacefully if we watch too many violent and hurtful actions on TV and in the movies. These stories often show a “bad” person doing something wrong to other people. The “good” person takes care of the problem by using weapons, fighting or other force to hurt or kill the “bad” person. The so-called hero usually does not try to work out the problem without violence.

Think of a TV show or movie you have seen that had a story much like this. Pretend you’re a new writer for Peaceful Productions. Use the same characters having the same problem but try to rewrite the rest of the story in a way that the problem is solved without violence and with both characters having a happy ending.

What story are you using and how will you change it?

Is it hard to rewrite the story? Why?

What teachings of Jesus would help?



Circle the bystander (the person watching the bullying take place) in this picture. If you were the bystander, what might you **say** to help the victim?

What might you **do** to help the victim?

If other kids were around, why might you be tempted to do nothing?

Who could give you courage to speak up for the person being bullied?

FAMILY PAGE

Halloween is an important time for children. Dressing up in costumes is an opportunity for trying out different aspects of one's personality. How can we as parents promote the spirit of kindness during this sometimes violent season? One elementary school I know adopted a new plan for dressing up. All costumes would reflect characters from literature being studied in class and could not include any items suggestive of violence. Shortly after Halloween, the principal of the school received a call from the owner of the local costume store. He had been left with a wall of unsold guns, swords, daggers and other weapons. The store owner requested advance notice next year of the school's costume regulations so that he could order alternative items.

Just imagine how families could unite to reject products and entertainment that promote violence and how we might instead demand creative, nonviolent alternatives. We need not be taken for granted as parents and consumers. We can make a difference!

- Is there some action you and other parents from school, church or the neighborhood might pursue to help create a healthier environment for children?
- Just as the school above "rewrote" the rules for costumes, brainstorm as a family how to rewrite a TV or movie plot (see page 2 of this bulletin).

Resources

Reading for Adults:

How to Make the World a Better Place: 116 Ways You Can Make a Difference by Jeffrey Hollender

To Read Aloud:

Why is Everybody Always Picking on Me: A Guide to Handling Bullies by Terrence Webster-Doyle, Education for Peace Books, Atrium Society

Halloween Resources:

Witch Lady by Nancy Carlson

Arthur's Halloween by Marc Brown

It's Pumpkin Time by Zoe Hall

Peace Papers© by
Parenting for Peace and Justice Network

4144 Lindell #408, St. Louis, MO 63108

(314) 533-4445

Writer: Janice Joseph

