

Grade Four—Unit Three

Lesson Four

Asking Shows Respect For Privacy Of Others

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

Students will learn that asking is a way to respect the private belongings and conversations of others. Students will also learn to seek permission if they need to enter a private area. To know in advance, is to be safe.

MATERIALS

- Students' workbooks

PROCEDURE

1. Review the previous lesson, "Asking Can Keep You Safe." Ask students, "Why is it important to ask those in authority for help?" (*Asking means that those in authority can supervise them or help them make safe choices and give experienced information on things we need to avoid.*)
2. Explain to students that they will continue to learn about the importance of asking. Tell students that today they will learn that asking shows respect for the private belongings, places and conversations of others. Review the word **private**. Remind students that the word **private** means *something that is set aside to be used or touched only by the owner.*
3. Tell students that often people may have special feelings towards the belongings they consider private. For example, someone may be protective about their diary because it contains personal information. Ask students to name some of their private belongings. Take as many answers as time permits.
4. Ask students the following questions:
 - a. How would you feel if someone touched your private belongings without asking? (*Possible answers may include: sad, upset, hurt, angry, disappointed or even a feeling that your trust was betrayed. Keep in mind that is all the more reason that we all should be involved in teaching the*

Unit Three

Peaceful Solution to every individual, so everyone will know the do's and don'ts of friendship.)

b. If someone were to ask you to share, use or look at your private belongings what would you say and why? For example, "If someone asked me to let him see my private coin collection, I would say yes, but I would want to be there to make sure he doesn't lose any of the coins, or place them in the wrong locations."

Remind students that asking allows others to make choices about the things they own, and it shows concern for their feelings.

5. Tell students that the word private can also be applied to conversations. Discuss ways to recognize a private conversation. For example, those who are speaking may lower their voices, or go into another room. Ask students, "How can you respect others when they are speaking privately?" Allow as many answers as time permits. Tell students that the best way to show respect when others are having a private conversation is not to interrupt them. However, if there is an emergency or something important then you can approach the person and say, "Excuse me, may I speak with you?" Tell students that they must always respect the rights of others to have a private conversation.

6. Tell students that you will now discuss how to recognize when an area has been set aside as private. Explain to students that the use of signs is one way to identify certain areas as private. Ask students if they have noticed signs in public places that say "Private Keep Out," "Employees Only" or "No Trespassing." Ask students where they have seen these signs. (*Answers may vary, but could include, the park, shopping mall and library.*)

7. Tell students that they should not go into an area that has been set aside as private without permission. For example, your brother may have a sign on his bedroom door that says "DO NOT ENTER." Electrical and gas companies often put up "private" signs because of dangerous electrical lines, equipment or possible gas leaks. Police often put private barriers to block off dangerous areas. A "No Trespassing" sign on a gate or fence tells others not to enter without permission. Explain to students that not receiving permission to go into an area or on property that has been clearly marked with a "No Trespassing" sign means that they have broken the law and may be putting themselves in danger. Some of the consequences for breaking this law are being caught and detained by the police until your

parents are called, put in a juvenile detention center, or even worse, accidents that could cause permanent injury or death.

8. Have a discussion on the importance of asking based on the following scenarios:

a. Your ball rolls into an area of the park that has a “Do Not Enter” sign posted. What should you do? (*You must find the park ranger or other authority in the park and ask permission to retrieve your ball. Tell students that without permission there is no reason to enter an area that is marked with a “Do Not Enter” sign.*)

b. Your father is quietly speaking to the next door neighbor on the porch. You know you should not interrupt them, but your grandmother is calling long distance. What should you do? (*You should say “Excuse me, Dad, may I speak with you? Grandma is on the phone, and she would like to speak with you.” Tell students that in some situations they will have to decide when it is an appropriate time to interrupt a private conversation. A family member calling long distance can be important.*)

c. Jenny keeps her private belongings in a box on a shelf in her closet. I asked her if I could see her box, but she said “no.” (*Tell students that asking was the appropriate thing to do and that Jenny’s answer was also appropriate. She has the right to say “no” concerning her belongings.*)

Emphasize to students the importance of asking to show respect for the privacy of others.

9. **Activity—What Would You Do?:** Have students turn to **pages 80-81** in their workbooks (answer key found on **pages 150-151** of the *Teacher’s Manual*) and complete the “What Would You Do?” worksheet.

10. Conclude the lesson by reminding students that asking shows respect for the privacy of others.

Emphasize the fact that the more people who know *The Peaceful Solution Character Education Program*, the less trouble each of us will have with others invading our privacy.

Follow up: *Tell students to make a list of how many “Private” or “No Trespassing” signs they can find the next time they go shopping, to the park or to the library for class presentation.*



Lesson Four

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Activity

What Would You Do? Answer Key

What would you do in the following scenarios? Circle the correct answers.

1. You missed the school bus. You can take the normal route, which means you will be late for school, or you can walk through Mrs. Baker's backyard, but there is a "No Trespassing" sign on her gate. You decide to...



- a. Walk through Mrs. Baker's backyard and show disrespect for her privacy.
- b. Take the normal route and respect Mrs. Baker's privacy.
- c. Ask Mrs. Baker for permission to walk through her property.
- d. Both b and c.

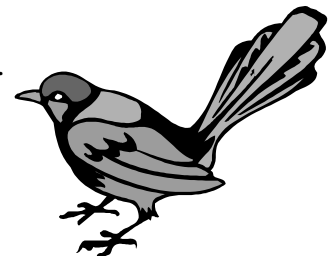
2. Your friend has this really old pen that belonged to her grandfather. She told you that she won't let anyone else use it, because it is special to her. One day while visiting, you see her special pen on her desk. She is out of the room, and you only need to add one sentence to your homework. You decide to....



- a. Respect her private belongings by waiting for her to return and ask to use another pen.
- b. Use her special pen.

3. Your teacher and the principal are having a private conversation in the hall. Under what circumstances should you interrupt their conversation?

- a. You want to show them how neatly you can color.
- b. A blue bird landed on the window sill.
- c. None of the above.





4. Your brother has an autographed baseball. He keeps it in a special box that's marked "Private." Your best friend really wants to see the ball, but your brother is not at home. You decide to...
- Sneak into your brother's room and let your friend see the baseball.
 - Ask your sister if she thinks your brother would mind.
 - Tell your friend he will have to see the ball another time when your brother is at home.

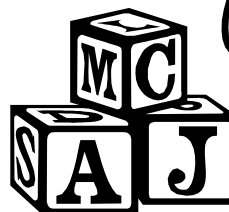
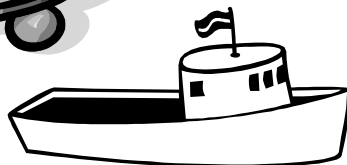


5. The sign says "Employees Only." Your friend dares you to open the door and go in. You decide to...
- Go in and take a look.
 - Tell your friend you don't do things that will get you into trouble.
 - Double dare your friend to open the door and go in himself.



6. Your sister keeps her diary in a box under her bed. She has told you that her diary is private. Your mother asked you to put your sister's laundry in her room. Since you're in her room and no one else is around, you decide to....
- Take a quick peek at her diary.
 - Put her laundry in her room and leave. Her diary is private, and it is none of your business.
 - Take her diary with you and read it when you have more time.

7. Mrs. Goldsmith, your school's guidance counselor, had a private conversation with your best friend. You are curious. You want to find out what their conversation was about. After school you decide to....
- Come straight out and ask her why the guidance counselor needed to talk to her.
 - Ignore her. She shouldn't have a private conversation without you.
 - Respect her privacy by not asking her to talk about her conversation. A private conversation means you shouldn't ask about it.



Lesson Four

Asking Shows Respect For The Privacy Of Others

Additional Activity

Play the narrative entitled “Mark Learns Not To Trespass” found on the *Teacher’s Manual Audio Lessons*. Students may follow along in their workbooks on **pages 82-85** (**pages 153-156** of the *Teacher’s Manual*.)

Lesson Four

Asking Shows Respect For The Privacy Of Others

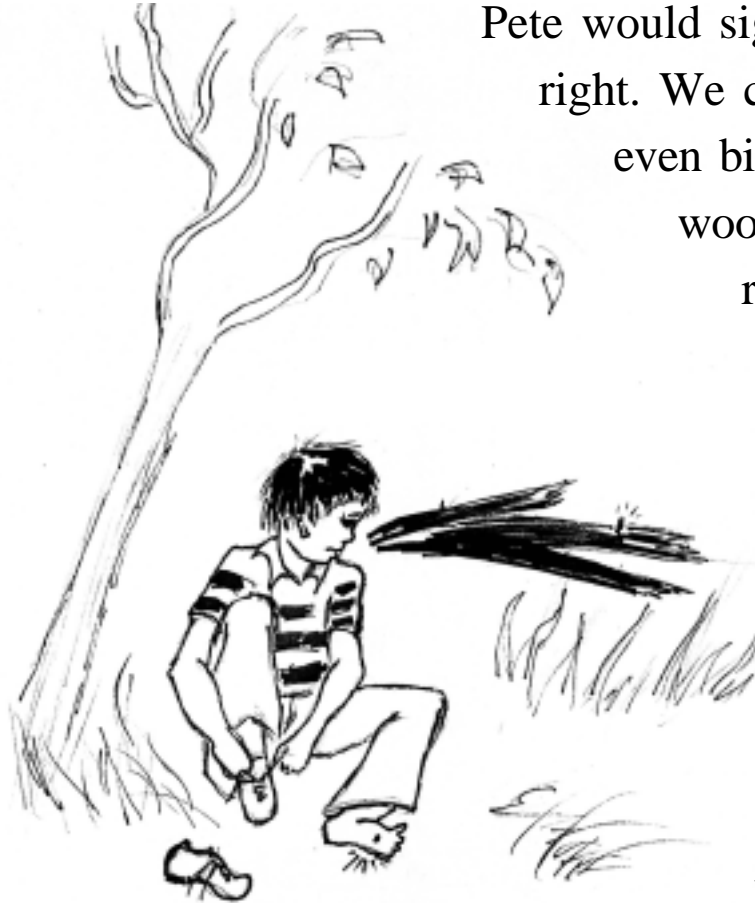
Additional Activity #1

Narrative: Mark Learns Not To Trespass

The signs said KEEP OUT and NO TRESPASSING. The old White Homestead was being torn down. The land had been sold, and the new owners were going to build a new home. There were all kinds of wood scraps just lying around for all the neighborhood children to see.



Mark really wanted to look through all of the wood. Every day he would stop and watch the work crew cart more wood out of the house. He would say to his best friend Pete, “I just can’t understand why we can’t go in there. They’re just throwing the stuff away anyway. It makes no sense to me. We sure could use some of that wood for our new treehouse.”



Pete would sigh and say, “Yes, you’re right. We could make the treehouse even bigger. There’s all kinds of wood there. We could have a roof and everything.”

One day as they passed by, they noticed that the work crew was gone. Mark and Pete looked at each other. Mark said, “I think that means it’s okay to go in there now. Why don’t we go home and change. I’ll meet you here in a few minutes.”

“That sounds great to me, Mark.”

As they hurried to gather the supplies, Mark suddenly stepped on a nail. “Owwwwwwh!” he yelled.

“What’s wrong, Mark?” asked Pete.

“I stepped on a nail,” said Mark, as he hobbled over to a nearby rock. He sat down and took off his shoe. There was blood on his sock. When he took off his sock, there was a small hole on the bottom of his foot where the nail had entered. It was still trickling blood. “Oh, no!” cried Mark. “What am I going to tell my mom?” Mark put his sock and shoe back on,



but it hurt to walk. With Pete helping him, Mark limped all the way home.

Mark's mother met them at the door. "What's wrong?" she asked.

"I stepped on a rusty, old nail by accident," Mark cried. "I didn't even see it."

"Where were you playing?" asked Mark's mother. "I thought you were over at Pete's house working on your new treehouse."

"Well, we were there for a little while, but then we went to the old White Homestead to get some wood to make the treehouse bigger," said Mark. "While we were there, I stepped on a nail."

"Mark, what you did was wrong. You trespassed. The fence and signs were put there to keep you safe. Stepping on a nail was just one of the things that could have occurred to you. Mark, didn't you see the 'No Trespassing' signs?" his mother asked, as she helped him into the house. "They are posted in several different areas on the fence."

Sitting down and taking off his shoe, Mark replied, "Yes, I did, but the work crew was gone, and I figured it was just junk that no one wanted. We just wanted to make our treehouse bigger," said Mark in a sad voice. He knew that he had made a wrong decision by trespassing on private property.

Looking at his injured foot, Mark's mother shook her head and in a stern voice reminded him, "A No Trespassing sign means private property, and no one is allowed on that property except the owner and those who receive permission. It doesn't matter if you think you have a great reason. The point is, Mark, if the police had caught you, you could have been detained at the police station and given a criminal record."

"I really did wrong, didn't I?" asked Mark in a low voice.

"Yes, you did," replied his mother. "And as soon as we take care of your foot, I'll call Pete's mom and tell her what took place. It looks like you will have to stay off of your foot for a few days. In the meantime, I'm sure that your father will be able to find out who the new owner of that property is. Then you can call and apologize for trespassing on their land and taking their wood without permission."

"Oh, no!" exclaimed Mark. "You mean I'll have to tell them what I did?"

"Yes," assured his mother. "You will need to ask when you and Pete can return all the wood you took off of their property."

Mark had never felt so awful. Mark learned a lesson that he will never forget. He learned that asking will keep you safe and out of trouble.

