



Current Affairs Assembly

KS3 Relationships – Friendship

What is a friend?

Assembly

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Aim:

- To consider the benefits and dangers of social networking
- To think about the Bible's advice on friendship

Introduction

How many friends?



facebook®

Do a quick survey to find out how many pupils have been on Facebook that morning, how many within the past 24 hours, how many have less than 50 friends on Facebook, how many have between 50 and 100, how many have between 100 and 200, how many have more than 200 friends on Facebook.

Looking Deeper

Definition of a friend

Ask pupils for a simple definition of a friend. Do all 'Facebook friends' fall into the same category? Inevitably there will be some people we have more contact with than others, some we care about more than others, some we are more willing to share our thoughts and feelings with than others.

On facebook it is very easy to click a button and invite someone to become a friend, or to accept their request for friendship, but should you be friends with everyone you

come into contact with? Should you accept every friendship request?

Joanne Fraill was a juror in a court case who tracked down the defendant in the case she was hearing and made friends with her on Facebook. She has been given an eight month jail sentence for contempt of court.

Nathan Singh was a prison officer at HMP Leicester, but lost his job after it was discovered that he had prison inmates on his list of friends.

Charlotte Fielder was born missing a hand. She unwittingly befriended men on Facebook who pretended to have lost a limb themselves, but were, in fact, sexually attracted to amputees. Later, she found her profile image had been copied and posted onto a pornographic website, where obscene comments were made.

Are the people on your friends lists really people that you know and trust as friends?

Reflection

The book of Proverbs in the Bible contains much ancient wisdom which is still relevant today. Here are some of the things it says about friendship:





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Gossip separates close friends (Proverbs 16:28)

Whoever forgives someone, makes a friend; but gossiping about what someone does wrong breaks up friendships (Proverbs 17:9)

A friend loves you all the time and helps you in times of trouble (Proverbs 17:17)

Friends come and friends go, but a true friend will stick by you like a brother (Proverbs 18:24)

A song that used to be popular amongst Christians has the following words:

The perfect friend is one who
knows the worst about you
and loves you just the same.
There's only one who loves like
that and Jesus is his name,
his wonderful, wonderful name.

Prayer

Lord God,

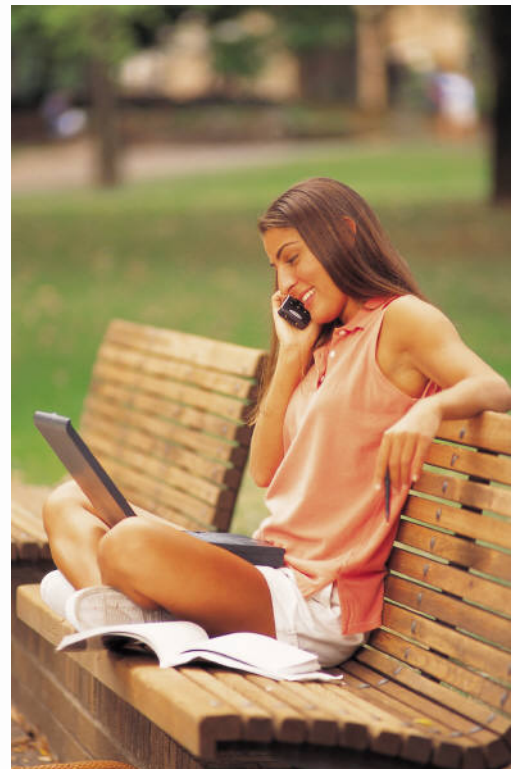
Please help us to be wise in the friendships we make in both the real and the virtual world.

Thank you that you promise to be the perfect friend. Please help us to remember that when we feel alone.

Amen

Keywords

Facebook
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Images <http://office.microsoft.com>