

# SPEAK UP AT SCHOOL

RESPOND TO EVERYDAY WRONGS

## INTERRUPT

Speak up against every inappropriate remark—every time, in the moment, without exception. Think about what you'll say ahead of time so you are prepared to act instantly.

TRY SAYING  
"I DON'T LIKE WORDS LIKE THAT," OR "THAT PHRASE IS HURTFUL."

Proverbs 31:8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed."

## QUESTION

Ask simple questions in response to unkind remarks to find out why the speaker made the offensive comment and how you can best address the situation.

TRY ASKING  
"WHY DID YOU SAY THAT,"  
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN?"  
OR "TELL ME MORE."

1 John 4:1 "My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you."

## EDUCATE

Explain why a term or phrase is not right. Encourage the person to choose a different expression. Hate is not behind all hateful speech. Sometimes ignorance is at work, or lack of exposure to a diverse population.

TRY SAYING  
"DO YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF THAT WORD?"

James 5:20 "You can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins."

## ECHO

If someone else speaks up against something that violates God's standards, thank the person and reiterate his/her message. One person's voice is a powerful start. Many voices together create change.

TRY SAYING  
"THANKS FOR SPEAKING UP, JESS. I AGREE THAT WORD IS UNACCEPTABLE AND WE SHOULD NOT USE IT."

Ecclesiastes 4:12 "A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back to back to conquer. Three are even better, for a triple braided cord is not easily broken."