

Peer Power

Objectives

3.14 Establish criteria in creating self-accountability.

The student will be able to:

1. Describe how relationships with one another can develop into deeper relationships that foster godly living.
2. Identify qualities of a person who can help someone take responsibility for his/her words and actions.
3. Describe an effective relationship that helps the people involved make good decisions.
4. Describe how prayer, confession, and encouragement work together to help people grow and change.
5. Identify three people in his/her life that encourage him/her to be a better person.

Materials and Equipment

Word Power—one per student

Word Power—Teacher Key

One Another—one per student

One Another—Teacher Key

Protecting Purity Journal—a journal for each student that is designated for *Protecting Purity* classes

Student Learning Activities

Small group activities

Large group discussion

Key Scriptures

Psalm 1:1-2 (NIV)

¹Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ²but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

²⁰Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 15:22 (NIV)

²²Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 24:6 (NIV)

⁶Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers.

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

¹⁷As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

¹⁰Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:16 (NIV)

¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 14:13 (NIV)

¹³Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Romans 15:7 (NIV)

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:14 (NIV)

¹⁴I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

2 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)

¹¹Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Galatians 5:13 (NIV)

¹³You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

James 5:16 (NIV)

¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)

²³Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Key Points

Discuss the following Key Points with students throughout the lesson, intertwining the key points with the various activities used. The Key Points are not meant to be used as a mini-lecture, but rather a general content outline to use throughout the lesson. Some of the Key Points naturally connect with specific activities while other Key Points are more general and can be discussed at any point in the lesson. They are outlined below from basic information to a more complex understanding of the topic.

- Peers can be a powerful positive or negative influence.
- Positive, honest peer relationships have the potential to develop into deeper authentic and encouraging relationships that challenge one another to live godly lives.
- Christians who desire to be in authentic, encouraging relationships with other Christians are ones who desire spiritual growth and recognize their need for help, confession, warning, and encouragement.
- In authentic, honest Christian relationships, every person measures what they say and do against the Bible and counsel of the Holy Spirit. Each person must be willing to learn and change.
- Relationships that operate with mutual accountability generally need to be of the same gender, sensitive, kind, humble, wise, trustworthy, and confidential.
- Confessing sin helps us to get honest with God and one another about what we should or should not be doing.
- Prayer and encouragement as we communicate and relate with one another helps us to know and strengthen one another.
- These type of relationships become rich, deep, and authentic, empowering us to pursue Godly living.
- Having relationships with people such as someone like Paul (older person with wisdom), Barnabas (encouraging peer), and Timothy (younger person to help him/her grow) also helps one grow in his/her relationship with Christ and others.

Lesson Introduction

Have two volunteers sit back-to-back on the floor. Tell them to stand straight up without using their hands. Have the rest of the class carefully observe the process they use to achieve the goal. If desired, add another set of people so the two new people are shoulder-to-shoulder with the original volunteers and both sets of partners are back-to-back. Repeat the process, continuing to add people to the line, until the group cannot achieve the goal after 2-3 tries. Although this exercise is an example of teamwork, it also shows how people support and empower one another.

Discuss questions such as:

1. What verbal and nonverbal cues did you observe that the volunteers used to help one another persevere?
2. How could each person have supported the other person better—physically and emotionally?
3. Was there an optimum point (or number of people involved) in which the goal of standing up was achieved most quickly? What was that point/number? What happened in subsequent tries that made the goal more difficult to achieve?
4. What does this activity teach us about the power of peer support?
5. How can you apply what you have discovered from this activity to the support you give to and receive from peers?

Teaching Activities

Power of Peers

Have several students share a time when a friend has encouraged them to do what is right. Ask students to share what would have been different if their friend did not encourage them to make the right choice. Discuss why people need one another to make good decisions and keep them in right relationships with God and others. Have students complete and discuss **Word Power**, using **Word Power Teacher Key** to guide the discussion.

Teaching Activities

Relationships that Support Taking Personal Responsibility

Divide students into two groups. Have one group brainstorm qualities needed in a person who can help someone take responsibility for his/her words and actions (e.g., sensitive, wise, humble, trustworthy, honest, etc.). Have the other group brainstorm guidelines for several people to function effectively (e.g., regular meetings, prayer, confidentiality, truth in love, etc.) to provide that support. Then have the groups share information with one another.

Discuss questions such as:

1. Does the information shared by both groups seem to support one another? What are the similarities and differences?
2. Do you think the information shared by both groups aligns with the Scriptures read? Why? If not, how does the information need to change to be in alignment with the Scriptures?
3. Why should a person have several people he/she can turn to for support and encouragement? What are the dangers in just having one person to turn to for support?
4. What can a person do if he/she does not have people in his/her life to help him/her take responsibility for his/her words and actions? Or the only influence of others tends to be negative?
5. Do best friends make good supportive partners when dealing with issues? Why?
6. Why is your primary relationship for support in taking responsibility for your words and actions in your life found in your relationship with God? What should you do if you do not have a good relationship with God?

One Another

Have students complete and discuss **One Another**, using **One Another Teacher Key** to guide the discussion.

Teaching Activities

The Need for Confession, Prayer, Encouragement in Supportive Relationships

Have students read James 5:16 and Hebrews 10:23-25. Share with students the need for and the benefits of confessing struggles and sin with a trusted person (e.g., burden lifted, accountability and encouragement in repentance, wisdom in moving forward with change, truth-in-love when slip up again). Have students share how prayer and encouragement help. In small groups, have students develop five guidelines for supporting someone who has confessed sin and desires prayer and encouragement. As a class, compile and discuss the guidelines, pointing out how many of the guidelines also work in aspects of relationships.

Helping Others

Discuss with students why it is important to have a supportive relationship with someone who is older, someone who is your peer, and someone who is younger. Have them describe how each of those relationships would be different from one another.

Discuss additional questions such as:

1. How do you develop these relationships?
2. Should you let your parents know if you are in an intentionally supportive relationship, especially with an older person?
3. How do you develop an intentionally supportive relationship with someone your age?
4. How do you know if you are ready to invest in someone who is younger than you? Must you have your “act together” in order to be intentionally supportive and offer wisdom to someone who is younger? Why?

Review and Assess

For each category listed below, have students name one or more individuals who are supportive and encouraging to them and then vice versa in their *Protecting Purity* journals. Have students explain why they chose those people based on information gleaned from the class discussion.

1. Someone who is older
2. Someone your age
3. Someone who is younger

Extended Learning

Using resources, have students read about one or more of the following relationships: David and Jonathan, Paul and Timothy, Paul and Barnabas, or Mary and Elizabeth. Have students determine characteristics that made each of those relationships supportive and encouraging.

Opt-Out Assignment

Have students read an article on biblical accountability/supportive relationships such as the one listed under Sources. Have students respond in writing to the following questions:

1. Have you ever had the type of relationships described in the article(s)? In what ways did those relationships impact you?
2. If not, would you like relationships that are supportive in this way? Why?
3. What questions do you think would be important for someone to ask you to help you take responsibility for your words and actions with God and others? (List at least five questions.)
4. What qualities would you like in someone that helps you become a better person?
5. What are the benefits of being connected in a group of people who intentionally provide support and encouragement?

Sources

Gilkerson, Luke. "The Pillars of Biblical Accountability." Covenant Eyes. Covenant Eyes, 27 Jan. 2014. Web. 03 Dec. 2015. <<http://www.covenanteyes.com/2014/01/27/pillars-accountability/>>.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Peer Power—One Another

Directions: Read the scriptures below and fill in the verb that completes the phrase next to the scripture. Answer the questions that follow.

Romans 12:10 _____ one another.

Romans 12:16 _____ one another.

Romans 14:13 _____ one another.

Romans 15:7 _____ one another.

Romans 15:14 _____ one another.

2 Corinthians 13:11 _____ one another.

Galatians 5:13 _____ one another.

Ephesians 4:32 _____ one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 _____ one another.

1. How does taking these actions in a peer relationship help the relationship?

2. Why do you think God puts such emphasis on what we should do for one another?

3. How would you feel if you had a relationship that demonstrated all of these actions?

4. What do you need to do to strive to act this way toward your peers?

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Peer Power—**One Another—Teacher Key**

Directions: Read the scriptures below and fill in the verb that completes the phrase next to the scripture. Answer the questions that follow.

Romans 12:10	Be devoted to one another.
Romans 12:16	Live in harmony with one another.
Romans 14:13	Stop passing judgement on one another.
Romans 15:7	Accept one another.
Romans 15:14	Instruct one another.
2 Corinthians 13:11	Encourage one another.
Galatians 5:13	Serve one another.
Ephesians 4:32	Be kind and compassionate to one another.
1 Thessalonians 5:11	Encourage and build up one another.

1. How does taking these actions in a peer relationship help the relationship?

Answers will vary, but may include that these are all positive, healthy actions that strengthen relationships and encourage living a godly life.

2. Why do you think God puts such emphasis on what we should do for one another?

Answers will vary, but may include that God desires we act this way as it glorifies Him, shows His love for us, and pleases him. Jesus also demonstrated love, encouragement, acceptance, and service toward others through his life.

3. How would you feel if you had a relationship that demonstrated all of these actions?

Answers will vary, but should be supported.

4. What do you need to do to strive to act this way toward your peers?

Answers will vary, but should be supported.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Peer Power—Word Power

Directions: Read the Scriptures below. Then find 9 phrases from the scriptures in the word search. Some of the scriptures have two phrases as noted next to the scripture reference. Then write each phrase next to its respective scripture reference. Answer the questions that follow according to what you read in the scriptures.

C	I	T	P	M	R	C	W	K	F	X	U	Y	N	B	D	Q	S	V	T
J	M	H	E	L	P	A	N	O	T	H	E	R	U	P	I	M	A	U	W
O	G	Y	F	A	N	I	L	S	G	P	M	E	C	E	D	E	K	P	O
P	N	S	D	I	S	E	J	E	C	S	R	T	U	P	L	D	N	D	B
B	E	G	C	Z	H	B	E	C	O	M	E	W	I	S	E	I	Y	K	E
T	E	A	G	R	A	E	L	F	C	O	R	E	D	N	V	T	D	S	T
R	D	I	J	G	R	K	P	E	T	A	B	H	P	D	I	A	Q	U	T
E	G	M	N	Y	P	A	R	S	I	W	L	O	E	J	D	T	C	P	E
S	U	C	C	E	E	D	W	I	T	H	A	D	V	I	S	E	R	S	R
K	I	P	U	D	N	H	R	E	K	I	B	A	P	O	L	O	N	D	T
L	D	T	F	R	A	K	U	R	E	C	I	K	L	M	E	N	D	X	H
U	A	I	J	P	N	G	E	T	C	O	U	N	S	E	L	L	P	U	A
R	N	W	A	K	O	I	L	T	W	V	E	I	C	A	T	A	J	E	N
E	C	E	L	W	T	K	T	E	B	A	O	H	M	R	I	W	K	R	O
P	E	G	M	E	H	L	R	W	O	D	E	E	H	B	C	E	S	T	N
S	H	O	V	I	E	W	A	L	K	W	I	T	H	W	I	S	E	C	E
F	W	L	P	D	R	K	D	T	S	K	M	B	R	P	D	F	S	Z	M
H	S	D	E	L	I	G	H	T	I	N	L	A	W	O	F	L	O	R	D

Psalms 1:1-2 (2) _____

Proverbs 13:20 (2) _____

Proverbs 15:22 (2) _____

Proverbs 24:6 _____

Proverbs 27:17 _____

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (2) _____

1. What happens when we delight and meditate on the law of the Lord? _____

2. What are the benefits of seeking wisdom and counsel through others? _____

3. Why do we need other people in our lives to help us live godly lives? _____

4. How can our peers support and encourage us? _____

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Peer Power—Word Power—Teacher Key

Directions: Read the Scriptures below. Then find 9 phrases from the scriptures in the word search. Some of the scriptures have two phrases as noted next to the scripture reference. Then write each phrase next to its respective scripture reference. Answer the questions that follow according to what you read in the scriptures.

C	I	T	P	M	R	C	W	K	F	X	U	Y	N	B	D	Q	S	V	T
J	M	H	E	L	P	A	N	O	T	H	E	R	U	P	I	M	A	U	W
O	G	Y	F	A	N	I	L	S	G	P	M	E	C	E	D	E	K	P	O
P	N	S	D	I	S	E	J	E	C	S	R	T	U	P	L	D	N	D	B
B	E	G	C	Z	H	B	E	C	O	M	E	W	I	S	E	I	Y	K	E
T	E	A	G	R	A	E	L	F	C	O	R	E	D	N	V	T	D	S	T
R	D	I	J	G	R	K	P	E	T	A	B	H	P	D	I	A	Q	U	T
E	G	M	N	Y	P	A	R	S	I	W	L	O	E	J	D	T	C	P	E
S	U	C	C	E	E	D	W	I	T	H	A	D	V	I	S	E	R	S	R
K	I	P	U	D	N	H	R	E	K	I	B	A	P	O	L	O	N	D	T
L	D	T	F	R	A	K	U	R	E	C	I	K	L	M	E	N	D	X	H
U	A	I	J	P	N	G	E	T	C	O	U	N	S	E	L	L	P	U	A
R	N	W	A	K	O	I	L	T	W	V	E	I	C	A	T	A	J	E	N
E	C	E	L	W	T	K	T	E	B	A	O	H	M	R	I	W	K	R	O
P	E	G	M	E	H	L	R	W	O	D	E	E	H	B	C	E	S	T	N
S	H	O	V	I	E	W	A	L	K	W	I	T	H	W	I	S	E	C	E
F	W	L	P	D	R	K	D	T	S	K	M	B	R	P	D	F	S	Z	M
H	S	D	E	L	I	G	H	T	I	N	L	A	W	O	F	L	O	R	D

Psalms 1:1-2 (2 **Delight in law of Lord; Meditate on law**)

Proverbs 13:20 (2 **Become wise; Walk with wise**)

Proverbs 15:22 (2) **Get counsel; Succeed with advisers**

Proverbs 24:6 **Need guidance**

Proverbs 27:17 **Sharpen another**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (2) **Two better than one; Help another up**

1. What happens when we delight and meditate on the law of the Lord? **The Lord blesses us.**

2. What are the benefits of seeking wisdom and counsel through others?

We become wise, succeed, and are victorious.

3. Why do we need other people in our lives to help us live godly lives?

Other people sharpen us; give us counsel and guidance.

4. How can our peers support and encourage us? **They can help us up when we fall down.**