

## **Scripture Reflections Around Bullying Issues** **For Student/Class Reflection and Integration into Prayer Service**

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Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love, Justice, Temperance, Fortitude

Catholic Character Themes: Community, Compassion, Discipleship, Reverence, Solidarity, Stewardship

### **Reading 1**

Listen to the words of the prophet Jeremiah. Here, God says to Jeremiah:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jer 1, 4-5)

God knew us before we were born. He brought each of us into the world for a special reason. And so, we must always treat each other with love and respect, because God has a special place for all of us in his great plan.

### **Reflection Prayer -**

Lord, help me/us to...

### **Reading 2**

Listen to the words of the Prophet Isaiah. Here God gives these words to Isaiah to say to Israel:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ...you are precious in my sight and I love you." (Is 43 1b, 4a)

God calls each of us by name to be with Him forever, because we are precious in His eyes. Let us ask God to help us use each other's names only in kindness.

### **Reflection Prayer -**

Lord, help me/us to...

### **Reading 3**

Listen to the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew:

“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.” (Mt 7, 12)

Jesus tells us that when we treat each other with kindness, we are living by God’s law. Let us ask Jesus to help us to live his law of love by treating one another as brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of God.

### **Reflection Prayer -**

Lord, help me/us to...

### **Reading 4**

Listen to the words of Jesus in the Gospel of John:

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. ...I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.” (Jn 15, 12-17)

Jesus calls all of us his friends. He showed us how to live as friends by laying down his life for us. He calls each of us to live his command to love one another,

- by putting aside unkind words,
- by never saying or doing anything that would hurt anyone else;
- by being an example of friendship and welcome with everyone, especially those who feel left out.

Let us live in the love of Jesus as friends.

### **Reflection Prayer -**

Lord, help me/us to...