

Did You Hear About.....

Time: 45 minutes

Objectives:

- * Girls will consider the role gossip plays in their conversations.
- * Girls will consider how gossip affects their lives and the lives of others.
- * Girls will become aware of how much they participate in gossip.

Materials:

- * A large bowl filled with water
- * A rock or pebble

Activity: 35 minutes

- * Have one girl drop the rock/pebble into the water. The rock will produce a ripple effect. Have a discussion as to how this relates to gossip with the girls.
- * Ask the girls to define gossip.
- * Ask the girls what life would be like without gossip?
- * Ask the girls if gossip can be avoided?
- * Ask the following questions and encourage discussion:
 - * Is there a difference between positive and negative gossip?
 - * How have you been hurt by gossip?
 - * When you spread gossip and are later confronted, how do you react?
 - * Do your friends think you are a gossip?
 - * When you hear some juicy gossip about somebody—do you add more to the story before telling somebody else?
 - * Do boys gossip?
 - * How does gossip hurt others?
 - * What if it is true? Can it still be hurtful?
 - * Can you be trusted with a secret?
 - * What if a friend is in serious trouble—do you tell an adult or a friend?
 - * If you could make a policy about "bad" gossip and the whole school had to follow it—what would it look like?
 - * Is there a way for you to help others stop spreading rumors?

Discussion: 5 minutes

*Ask the girls the following questions:

- *What feelings did this conversation provoke?
- *How do you feel about your gossiping now?
- *Did this discussion raise your level of awareness of the power of gossip?

Homework for class:

*Journal Writing

How do you feel when people gossip about you?

When do you think gossip and rumors go too far?

School-wide Poster Competition at the end of Bullying Unit

Students can design a poster about bullying or gossip. Examples have been provided for them. Forms can be picked up in the counseling office. The winner of the contest receives a gift card and their poster will be printed, reproduced, and displayed throughout our school.

Source:

Taylor, Julia V. *Salvaging Sisterhood*. (2007). Youth Light, Inc., pp64-65.