

Cyberbullying Is Just Meme

Description: We have all been there. In the classroom, on the bus, in the halls, or just hanging out we have seen the effects of digital “tough” guys (or girls). We know this issue is real. We hear terrible stories and maybe even have lived some. How does the Christ follower make a difference in this digital battle? Is there anything we can do? Whether or not you have been bullied, this discussion will provide some tools to face this digital world.

Key Verses: Psalm 3:5-6; Deuteronomy 31:6; 1 John 2:9; Ephesians 4:29; Matthew 5:43-48; Psalm 1

Prompt: Start with a personal story of bullying, who the bully was, what happened, and how it made you feel. Or consider showing the opening credits to *Fresh Prince of Bell-Air* (which Brad will mention). Encourage student to sing along. Then, at the end, ask them why Will Smith’s character moved.

Play: Video of Brad Deetscreek, “Cyberbullying...” buildmomentum.org/resources

Process: Select from the following questions to help students remember, rekindle and reengage.

- ⏪ Cyberbullying is just a newer version of bullying, which is a timeless problem. **What are timeless forms of and motives for bullying? What are some of the reasons Brad provides for the prevalence and danger of cyberbullying?** (Note: He lists six.)
- ⏪ Consider the slide Brad shows with all the different devices used for entertainment, which are now wrapped into the neat and tidy package of a smart phone. **What makes the cell phone dramatically different from older media? How can it be used for good or for evil?**
- ⏪ Refer to the definition for cyberbullying. **What are the digital avenues used today “to harass, threaten, or humiliate another child or teen”?**
- ⏪ **How do boys and girls tend to differ in cyberbullying?**
- ⏪ Read Psalm 3:5-6 and Deuteronomy 31:6. **How do these passages apply to cyberbullying?**
- ⏪ Harassment is a form of hate. **What does 1 John 2:9 imply about those who harass others?**
- ⏪ God’s word encourages a better use of words: encouragement (see Eph. 4:29). **How has God used the encouragement of others to build you up? How have you encouraged others?**
- ⏪ **What did Jesus model and teach about responding to harassment?** Give biblical examples.
- ⏪ Brad gives five ways to stop being victimized by cyberbullying. **What are they and which would work best for you?**

Pray: Invite students to read Psalm 3:3-6 again. Ask students to thank God for being their shield, protecting them, hearing their cries, and lifting their heads. Give the students a minute to forgive their oppressors or confess their harassment of others. Pray God changes the hearts of cyberbullies.