



Our headlines are giving us all teachable moments. Step into the conversation with your sons and daughters. The only regret you'll ever have is that you didn't.

Here are three questions to begin the ongoing conversation:

"I know you've been hearing on the bus, on social media, or on TV about all these men being fired for inappropriate sexual behavior with women, men, boys, and girls."

- 1. "Tell me what you've heard?"** Find out what they know and what they understand. Listen.
- 2. "How would you respond if someone, a pastor, a relative, or a family friend (Use specific labels, but not names—perpetrators could be anyone and children need to know that.) made you feel uncomfortable in that way—they spoke to you about your body or someone else's body or showed you pornography?"** A perpetrator will often test his or her victim. If a child or adult will tolerate talk, they may tolerate actions. Explain this to your child. "No one. No one has the right to speak to you inappropriately."
- 3. "What would you do if a boss, a teacher, or a coach (Tailor these labels to fit your child's connections—a soccer coach, a music teacher, a boss at McDonald's.) asked you to touch them inappropriately or attempted to touch you inappropriately?"** Create an exit strategy together. We told our children they could always be suddenly sick, and we would come immediately, that bathroom doors have locks—run to one if you need to or, to immediately escape to a group—there is safety in numbers. Be creative. No One. No one has the right to take your child's innocence away. NO ONE.



RISE AND SHINE MOVEMENT

Educating and Encouraging Parents to Talk to Their Kids About Childhood Sexual Abuse

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