

Surviving High School Lesson #1: Fitting In



Discussion:

Do you think cliques are a problem at Bishop Kelly? Why or why not? What are the cliques on the BK campus? What stereotypes, lies and assumptions do people have about the different groups and cliques on the BK campus? (Brainstorm stereotypes attached to each group listed) How does it feel to hear the stereotypes and/or lies? What group/groups would people put you into? Why? Have you ever been a new kid at a school? How do people treat new kids?

Video Clip:

Explores complex world of social pressures facing teenagers today; body image, bulimia, steroid use, depression, suicide, stereotypes, cliques, isolation, and friendship. Eleven teens from Yuba City High School in California join in a series of "social experiments" involving being an "outsider" for a day, visiting a digital imaging company to see how ads are distorted, listen to presentations with regard to eating disorders and steroid use, and venture to a mountain retreat in efforts to break down barriers between them and find out what they have in common. The video participants host a Challenge Day upon their return for their school, sharing what they have learned with other students.

Notice:

How do you see people from various cliques being treated on the BK campus? If you were moved to a new school tomorrow, how do you think you'd feel? Why? How would it feel to be an outsider? What might you do to fit in? What assumptions have you made about different groups of people on campus that may not be true?

Choose:

How would you like people to treat one another at Bishop Kelly? How do you want to choose to treat others differently? What choice can you make to break down the stereotypes and assumptions people have about the group you may belong to?

Act:

Reach out to someone in a different group and ask them to share what they love about their friends. See how many things you can find that you have in common.

Challenge Yourself!

- 1) Take the challenge to smile and say hello to at least five people from different groups. How did they respond? How did it feel to reach out?
- 2) Come back to class ready to share your experiences.