

the  Venues
Go Deep
80's Retro Movie Wisdom
Karate Kid
7.15.18

Karate Kid is about Daniel, who moved cross-country with his mom to start a new life. He runs into bullies who know Karate. Daniel tries to retaliate, but loses multiple times. His neighbor saves the day and teaches him the principles of Karate. The movie is about power struggles.

A bully is “a person who uses power to harm or intimidate another person.”

Describe a time when you were bullied as a kid. Have you ever done the bullying?

A 2017 Atlantic University study of 12-17yr olds found that **73% were bullied**. Almost ½ of young people who have been bullied experience depression and ⅓ suicidal thoughts.

Mr. Miyagi: “No such thing as bad student, only bad teacher. Teacher say, student do.”

*Where do kids learn how to bully? Where have you seen bullying in our society? (Parents, peers, politics?)
Have you been bullied as an adult at work or home?*

Why do we bully?

The psychology suggests a bully is seeking power over another, because they feel powerless. They harass another to gain respect, because they feel they have none. Is it possible a person who bullies actually feels weak?

Mr. Miyagi: “Karate for defense only.”

Read Matthew 5:38-44

How does Jesus say to respond to bullying?

The bullying tactics Jesus refers to are ones that would humiliate the person. Is it possible Jesus is saying, “You cannot humiliate me?”

Read Matthew 10:28

Our power and self-respect comes from the One who made us in His likeness and image, (Gen 1:27) so no one can harm it or take it away.

Read Romans 12:21

What do you think Paul is saying? “Burning coals” is often referred to as shame. How can retaliating with kindness make a bully feel shame?

How can you respond with kindness to someone in your life who tries to hurt you?

When you are bullied, how can you remind yourself that the behavior is less about you and more about the bully's fear and feeling of weakness? How can we have compassion on them?

Prayer: God, give us the wisdom and strength to stand up to the bullies in a way that defends our self-worth, which no one can take away, and restores the self-worth of the person hurting us. Help us know how to love our enemies as you do.

