

Lesson:
Instant Messenger

Length of lesson:
30 Minutes

Materials:

- **Role Play Scripts**

Discussion Summary:

Being able to chat online at any hour of the day with someone you may never see or meet can be dangerous. While online chatting is a growing trend, it's important to teach girls the dangers associated with online chatting with strangers and safe practices when chatting with their friends.

Discussion Questions:

- **What is some information that should not be shared online?**
- **What are some ways that you can be safer when using social media?**

1. Begin by reviewing safe practices and the internet rules created by the girls.
2. Set up for script: (*name*) has just broken up with her boyfriend. She's devastated and looking for some support from her friends, so she updated her Facebook page explaining what happened. Unfortunately, she does not have her privacy settings enabled and anyone can see what she typed.
3. Choose two volunteers, preferably older girls, to read the scripts. Ask one participant to play the "girl" and the other to play "Andrew."
4. After the girls are finished acting out the scenario, follow up by discussing:
 - h. What would you do in her situation?
 - i. It turns out; Andrew is actually 35 years old. He

looks nothing like the pictures on his Facebook, which are actually pictures of his nephew.

- j. In what ways did Andrew deceive her?
 - k. What is some personal information that ___(*girl's name*)___ should not have given out?
 - l. What would you have done differently?
 - m. What are some other things Andrew could have been looking for?
5. Reassure the girls that people who really love and respect you will not pressure you to do things you don't want to and things you know you shouldn't do. The people who are truly looking out for you want you to succeed in school. Predators will take time and invest in

learning about the person they are stalking. They will tell them they have similar interests and tell them to keep their relationship a secret. Even if you have been talking to this person online for months or even years, you cannot know for sure who they are.

6. Conclude by involving all participants in recapping the material:

Q: I'm online and I meet someone fun to talk to. Is it OK to give him or her address or phone number so we can get together?

A: No! Predators create fake accounts on social media site, including fake pictures to get people to trust them. Only add and contact people you know offline, and get parents' approval before doing so.

Q: I have a digital picture of myself and someone I met online wants to see it. Is it OK to send it to that person?

A: No! You even have to be careful of pictures you put on your private social media sites. A team jersey or your school or a recognizable park in the background can help predators locate you.

Q: I'm visiting a site from a company or organization that I've heard of. They want my name and phone number so I can enter a contest. Is it OK to enter?

A: Even if you have heard of the company, NO! Scammers frequently set up fake contests and will hide under the name of a familiar company just to get your personal information!

Q: I'm online and I get a message from my Internet service provider asking for my password. They say they need it to fix my account. Should I give it to them?

A: No! Internet service providers rarely ask for your password, but scammers almost always do. Also, no one should be trying to fix your computer if you haven't noticed anything wrong with it.

Girl: Oh cool, I have a new message! And it's from a guy too. He's cute! I wonder what he said.

Andrew: Hi there! My name is Andrew. I saw your Facebook update through a friend's page. That sucks about the breakup. I can relate to that – I just got broken up with recently too. If you ever want to talk about it with someone who understands, just message me back!

Girl: Aww, he sounds so sweet! I should message him back. *(typing)* Yeah, we were together for a long time. It just sucks because he knew so much about me and we were really close.

Andrew: I know what you mean. It's hard for me to open up to people, so that makes the breakup harder. But you sound so nice, I bet I can trust you!

Girl: Of course you can! I can tell we're going to be good friends!

*****2 months later*****

Girl: Hi Andrew! How are you?

Andrew: I'm alright. School was pretty tough today though, so I'm glad it's almost Christmas break!

Girl: Me too. I can't wait to see all my family next week! My grandma is flying in from San Francisco. I haven't seen her in so long, and she's wanted to see my soccer trophy.

Andrew: I saw the pictures you posted from the tournament. What team are you on?

Girl: The San Diego Tigers. We're celebrating tonight at the Pizza Hut in La Mesa. It's going to be a lot of fun. I should actually go get ready now. I'll talk to you later!

*****2 more months later*****

Andrew: How was your birthday party last week? Sorry I couldn't make it. I was busy.

Girl: That's alright. It was a lot of fun! My friend Amanda posted the pictures but I haven't gotten around to looking at them yet.

Andrew: I would love to see those pictures! Oh, it looks like her profile is on a private setting. Could I sign in on your profile to see them?

Girl: If you want to wait a bit, I'll show you some later.

Andrew: I just want to see one of my closest friends having fun! I won't do anything weird, I promise!

Girl: Alright. You have my email, and my password is just my last name with my birthdate on the end.

*****2 more months later*****

Andrew: It's been so great getting to know you over these last few months. But now that we've been officially dating for a week, I want to finally meet you in person! Are you free tonight?

Girl: I would love to, but I have a test tomorrow that I really need to study for.

Andrew: Aww that sucks! You mean so much to me now and I was really looking forward to seeing you tonight.

Girl: I know, but my parents would never let me out on a school night anyways.

Andrew: You could always sneak out of the house.

Girl: What? No, I don't want to upset them if they find me gone!

Andrew: They'll never know. Just climb out your window.

Girl: I've never done that before. Besides, Amanda just got caught trying to sneak out and she got in a ton of trouble with her parents. They aren't even letting her go to her softball practices this week.

Andrew: Well that's just because she got caught. You won't get caught. Don't you want to see me?

Girl: Yeah, but tonight's not good. Can we do it next week?

Andrew: I thought you cared about me more than that.

Girl: I do, but I want to get an A in this class. I want to get into a good college after high school.

Andrew: You'll still pass the class. That's all that at you really need to do you know. Colleges don't care all that much about grades. Just come see me please? For me? For our relationship?

Girl: I don't know...