

UNIT 2

Drugs

DreamMakers – DreamBreakers

Unit 2 deals exclusively with the topic of drugs and drug addiction. Its primary goal is to ensure that students have accurate, trustworthy information about drugs, rather than rumors and half-truths from peers, adults, and the media. The first chapter seeks to expose common myths about drugs and drug addiction, and to replace them with facts. It also teaches students to be discerning about which sources are the most trustworthy for information about drugs and drug addiction.

From there, the unit presents the physiological impact of different types of drugs on the various body systems and emphasizes the damage drugs can inflict on the body when abused. Secondary effects of drug abuse are also presented. Among these are physical dangers such as HIV and hepatitis infection, and the inevitable damage to personal judgment and relationships. The mechanism of addiction is discussed, and students learn the truth about the inevitability of addiction and damage the longer drugs are abused. All lessons are structured in such a way that they can be taught avoiding the common or street names of drugs.

All of this is presented against the backdrop of the personal experience of one of the grandmothers, a medical doctor who became addicted to drugs after a painful back injury. She tells how she escaped the downward spiral of addiction with the help of the other two grandmothers and warns the grandchildren to avoid her mistakes. Throughout the unit, students are taught how to make wise judgments about drug use. They are shown how important it is to consider the source when being pressured to use drugs and to use their understanding and knowledge of drug abuse to resist that pressure. Students are shown the importance of deciding ahead of time what they will do in such situations. They are urged to find supportive friends and adults in their lives to help them hold on to their principles. Then, they are given the opportunity to make a commitment to abstain from drinking in a statement to themselves, their teacher, classmates, and any other supportive individuals in their lives.

Wisdom, self-control, and holding fast to one's principles are emphasized in the GOING DEEPER sections. They are contrasted with the condition of the drug addict, who is trapped by his or her cravings and dependence upon drugs, through various proverbs and a story about the Old Testament prophet, Daniel. Students are given opportunities to apply precepts in their own lives through writing, small-group discussions, and dramatic improvisations. Parents are asked to follow up on classroom instruction at home using the PARENT-TEACHER CONNECTION pages.