

Discussion Questions and Comments for Bystander

- Have you ever seen someone bullied?
 - What did you do about it?
- How can you help someone who's being mistreated?
- Did the Bible story Randy talked about sound familiar, or was it new to you?
 - You can read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37.
- If someone tries to share gossip with you, how should you respond?
- How do you think Lara should have responded to Kati's gossip and threats on the phone call?
- Do you think Lara did the right thing by apologizing to Alexis in her speech?

Discussion Questions and Comments for Bystander-Cont'd

- Each episode of The Bullying Triangle adds more context for Alexis, Kati, and Lara's actions. Now that you've heard the stories from their points of view, have your feelings about the characters changed or stayed the same?
- In literature class, there was a discussion about who the real monster was in Frankenstein. What comparisons and contrasts can you find between that story and The Bullying Triangle?

The Bullying Triangle is filled with flawed characters. From teens to adults, many mistakes were made. Alexis didn't ask for help and report the bullying sooner, and she let her bitterness consume her. Kati let jealousy overtake her, and it turned to hatred. Lara started out trying to defend Alexis and then gave in to peer pressure. Ms. Selig was concerned about her students but didn't always act on time. It's important to analyze all of their actions and understand what they did wrong. This way, you can know the right thing to do if you're ever in any of these situations.

Discussion Questions and Comments for Bystander-Cont'd

Think about the parable of the Good Samaritan. Lara started to be a Good Samaritan but didn't follow through all the way. She became the Levite and the Pharisee in the story. Those people were likely concerned about getting involved or getting dirty, or they wanted someone else to do the hard thing. Lara didn't want to get involved in what Kati was doing to Alexis. She finally stepped in to help Alexis but backed down when Kati convinced her that her reputation would be tarnished. Lara ended up becoming a bully herself. She became the opposite of a good neighbor.

A "bystander" is someone who is present but doesn't get involved in a situation or event. It's important not to be a bystander when you witness bullying. Instead, be an upstander. An upstander is someone who speaks, acts, or intervenes in support of, or on behalf of, someone being attacked. Talk to the person being bullied and try to convince them to report the bullying. It's best if the bullied individual reports it first. You can also report the bullying. Do your best to be a friend to the person being bullied and show them you care.

Discussion Questions and Comments for Bystander-Cont'd

James 4:17 says that if a person knows the right thing to do and doesn't do it, that becomes sin. So, when we see someone being mistreated, we can't pretend we didn't see it. If we do, the Bible says God will see it and judge us for our inaction (Proverbs 24:11-12).

As a Christian, Lara should have acted like Jesus. Instead, she lied about knowing the bullying was going on and pushed Alexis away. Doing these things damaged Lara's reputation, as well as made followers of Jesus look bad. It's important to admit our wrongdoing and ask forgiveness. Whether that person forgives us or not, God will. Read 1 John 1:9 and Isaiah 1:18 for that promise.

If you or someone you know is contemplating suicide, don't hesitate to reach out for help. Call or text 988 to talk with someone about your situation.

If you want someone to pray with you, call the National Prayer Center Prayer Line at (800) 477-2937.

For more resources on bullying, read [Standing Up Against Bullying](#) from Focus on the Family.