

### 3. Safety

**Etymology:** Early 14<sup>th</sup> c., *savete*, ‘freedom or immunity from harm or danger; an unharmed or uninjured state or condition’, from Old French *sauvete*, *salvete* ‘safety, safeguard; salvation; security, surety’, earlier *salvetet* (11<sup>th</sup> c., Modern French *sauveté*), from Medieval Latin *salvitatem* (nominative *salvitas*) ‘safety’, from Latin *salvus* ‘uninjured, in good health, safe’ (from PIE root ‘sol-’ ‘whole, well-kept’). From late-14 c. as ‘means or instrument of safety, a safeguard’.<sup>1</sup>

#### Suggestions for value-specific questions in VISION dialogues

- What is the purpose of safety?
- Where does safety live or exist?
- When is safety good/bad?
- How is safety related to belief?
- Can you be certain about being safe?
- Who is responsible for safety?
- What role does safety play in a good life?
- Does safety come with a prize?
- What is the relationship between safety and creativity?
- How is safety related to courage?
- What are the boundaries of safety?
- If safety could speak, what would it say to us right now?

#### Suggestions for exercises and creative activities to inspire a VISION reflection

##### ***Safer and braver spaces***

*Duration:* 35 minutes

*Description:* In pairs, explore your safety zones by moving nearer/farther away from each other. Determine each person’s personal boundaries whilst:

- standing side-by-side,
- standing in front of one another, and
- standing back-to-back, whilst
- making eye contact in each position [except when standing back-to-back].

Talk about how different each position is. What circumstances would make the experience different? (If you know the other person, the surroundings, the context, and, for instance, being in a metro or on a bus versus being in a park, etc.).

After sharing, identify a common pose that might portray the idea of ‘being safe’.

For the next part of the exercise, two pairings from the first part come together, establishing a four-person group. In these small groups, participants share a story about someone who did something brave. After sharing, the group finds a common stance/posture that illustrates ‘being brave’.

Discuss the difference(s) between ‘safe’ and ‘brave’ spaces.

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<sup>1</sup> Extracts compiled from <https://www.etymonline.com/word/safety>, last accessed 1 May 2026.