



Lesson Two: Protecting Our Sexual Purity (Middle School/High School)

Lesson Themes

- God's plan for our lives is complete moral purity.
- We must do whatever it takes to keep ourselves pure.
- The culture is systematically destroying God's standard.
- Our standards must be fixed before we are tempted.

Theme Verse

1 Corinthians 6:18-19 (CEV) – "18 Don't be immoral in matters of sex. That is a sin against your own body in a way that no other sin is. 19 You surely know that your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives. The Spirit is in you and is a gift from God. You are no longer your own."

1 Corinthians 6:18-19 (THE VOICE) – "18 Run from immoral behavior. All other sins are disconnected from the body, but sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. 19 Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who comes from God and dwells inside of you? You do not own yourself."

Lesson/Bible Study Discussion

Brief Explanation of 'How' to Lead a Bible Study Discussion Group

- This discussion guide is designed for just that... discussion. When I lead discussion group Bible studies, I do not have answers anywhere in the material, nor do I use a leader's guide with all the answers written in.
- This is INTENTIONAL! I believe that the discipleship process should be an encounter with God, not just listening to someone else tell you what words to write down to fill in the blanks.
- Our goal is to help you facilitate discovery learning for your students. As the questions are asked, every participant (including the leader) is required to search God's Word to discover the appropriate morsel of truth. When facilitators are 'armed' with all the answers, they are less likely to allow the time needed for individuals to process the question and formulate an answer.
- Don't be afraid of silence! That discovery process is the key to the success or failure of this process. It is in those moments of silence that we stop teaching and the Holy Spirit takes over!
- We cannot forget what Jesus said in John 16:13: *"when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth."*
- A "Lesson Commentary" has been included with this packet. We encourage you to study the material contained in the commentary, but do not try to teach (aka lecture) your group from that material. Let it serve as a source of information for you to draw upon to help give context and perspective to the group discussion.
- For a deeper look at the issues presented herein, please look at the "Judges – Teacher's Guide" or listen to the corresponding sermons (www.templerogers.org/obe/judges_resources/)
- For a deeper discussion of how to lead an inductive style, Bible discussion group, please download the "Leading Small Group Bible Studies" resource by clicking [HERE](#).

Ice-Breaker Options

OPTION #1: DISCOVERING THE SEXUAL INFLUENCES IN OUR CULTURE

- The aim of this section is to bring to light the sexual influences in our culture, which surrounds students.
- Group Activity
 - Divide the larger group down into several smaller groups. Give each group one clean sheet of paper and pen. Instruct the small groups to create a list of as many song titles that they can think of where the songs have something to do with sex. Give the groups 3 minutes to come up with their lists.
 - Once the time is up, have each group report how many songs they listed. Declare the group with the most songs the winner. Have someone from this group read their list. Re-gather the groups together and follow up on this activity by making the following point:
 - In this last activity, you proved just how popular of a theme sexuality is in music today. But, it's not just music. Sexuality in our culture is everywhere! You can't escape being exposed to unhealthy views of sexuality! That's why what you put in your mind is so important. When it comes to sexuality, your mind is the most powerful sexual organ. What you think about will determine if you will succeed or fail in protecting your purity.
- Ask: *"What are some other things in our culture that influence us in this area?"*
 - Pornography
 - Television
 - Movies
 - Magazines
 - Books
 - Music

OPTION #2: DEFINING PURITY – WHAT IS OUR POINT OF VIEW?

- Begin your session by putting up some pieces of large paper on the wall with the word "Purity" at the top of each. There should be one piece of poster board for every person in the group.
- Instructions for this activity:
 1. Give each person in the group a magazine.
 2. Give your group the following instructions:

As we begin to explore the idea of the purity, we need to start by giving some thought to the question: What is purity? I want you to take a few minutes and look through the magazine and find graphics or pictures that you believe represent the idea of purity. When you find one, rip it out of the magazine.

3. Give students time to look and rip through the magazines, then regain their attention.

4. Make the following remarks:

On the wall are pieces of poster board with the word “purity” on them, one for each of you. In a moment, I want you to take what you’ve ripped out of the magazines, grab some tape, find a piece of poster board to call your own, and tape your magazine “clippings” along the outside of your piece of poster board, leaving plenty of blank space on the poster board. Ready. Go. (Have plenty of tape available.)

5. Give your group time to do this.

6. Next, give these instructions:

Now I want you to go around the room and look at everyone else’s pieces of poster board and the magazine clippings they’ve attached to them. As you look at these pictures, think about what they have to do with the idea of purity. Go.

7. Give your group time to do this.

8. Next, give these instructions:

Now, that you’ve had a chance to both work on your poster board and take a look at everyone else’s poster board, I want you to grab a marker and go back to your poster board and take a few minutes to write as many words you can that come to mind when you think of the word, “purity.” Ready. Go.

9. Gather the group together and give opportunity for students to talk about the words they chose to write on their posters and why they chose them. Also question students about what pictures or words stood out to them from others’ posters and why.

Discussion Guide

Purity Is Not Dependent on Circumstances—Good or Bad

How had Joseph been mistreated by his family? What did his father do?
What did his brothers do? How did this affect Joseph?

What happened to Joseph after being sold to the Ishmaelite slave traders?
(Read Genesis 39:1-6)

How did Joseph's circumstances change after arriving in Egypt? Was he able
to do whatever he wanted because of his position of authority? Why
or why not?

Is it common today for people in positions of power to abuse their
authority to get what they want? Why is that wrong?

Purity is Not Determined in the Midst of Temptation

Read Genesis 39:6b-10. Why do you think the boss's wife was interested in
being intimate with Joseph? Was it only because of his handsome
physique and good looks? What else might it have been?

In verse 8-9, Joseph not only refuses to sleep with her, he also gives several reasons why he should not. What reasons did he give?

If this scenario was taking place today, what reasons would our secular culture give to encourage Joseph to go ahead and sleep with her?

There was no hesitation or deliberation in Joseph's words or actions when he refused the advances of his boss's wife. What does that tell us about his decision making process?

How important is it that we decide beforehand how we will act when we encounter temptation? How important are pure thoughts to help make this happen?

Purity Is Not Decided Once for All—It's a Daily Struggle

Read Genesis 39:10. How did the boss's wife respond to Joseph's rejection?
How did Joseph respond to her?

Read Genesis 39:11-12. What was different on this particular day of work?
What did his boss's wife do? If no one was there, what was keeping Joseph from giving into the temptation to have sex with her?

What principles can we learn from Joseph's situation? (possible answers could include: temptation never goes away, be careful to avoid situations where temptations might be more prevalent, we should run away from temptations, etc.)

Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-19 and 2 Timothy 2:22. What did Paul say about sexual immorality when writing to his fellow believers? How can we apply this advice to our own lives?

Purity Is often Not Popular or Appreciated

Read Genesis 39:12-18. What did the boss's wife do after Joseph fled?

As a result of this false accusation, Joseph ended up in prison. We will address this issue more in tomorrow's lesson. But for now, how does it make you feel to know that Joseph did what was right and yet still suffered consequences for his actions?