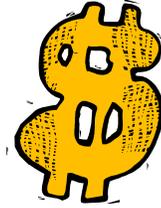


*Get Ready!***Belonging to God**

By: Diana Dimaggio

**Text**

Various texts throughout lesson.

Key Quest Verse

“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in you spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:20

Bible Background

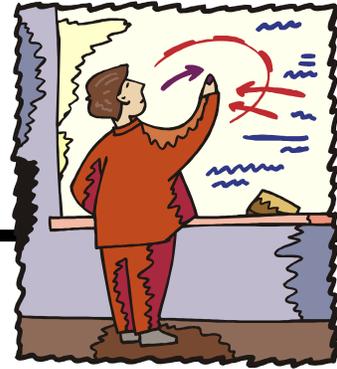
God in His Word makes clear the standard of behavior He expects of His children. He gives clear reasons for His expectations. If we accept Him as our Lord, we invite Him to live “in us.” When we plan to have guests we often clean house because we would not enjoy having your guests see our dirty laundry so to speak. God lives in us and we out of love and respect for Him and ourselves provide Him a clean place to stay. What we do, say, and think either creates an honorable and respectable abode for God or contrarily creates a foul and disrespectful place.

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest****What I want my students to****Know:** They belong to God.**Feel:** Loved and respected by God.**Do:** Honor God with their bodies.**Leader’s Devotion**

Perhaps with this type of lesson you will need to pray for God’s wisdom and guidance more than with other lessons. The subject matter is delicate and must be addressed directly but not crudely. Care should be taken to prepare yourself ahead of time for difficult questions on subjects you may otherwise be uncomfortable talking about. However, your teens will respect direct, honest answers. I have led a True Love Waits seminar with teens in my community and learned quickly that preparation both spiritually and intellectually was a necessity. If you are uncertain about physiological details consult with a medical professional in your church or community. Pray, study the texts, and prepare!

Teacher’s Note: We encourage you to take into consideration the students and families that will be in your class while teaching this lesson. God has provided clear lifestyle principles that protect us but He has also offered us a place to find forgiveness and cleansing. Be prepared with appropriate referrals if any abuse is disclosed to you. Don’t forget to include much laughter in your classroom; may God bless your diligent preparation for this and every lesson that you teach.

Get Set!



Option A

THINGS ABOUT ME

Materials: paper, pens, black or white board

Have students answer the following statements: (Have statements written on a black or white boards where students can easily refer to them).

- An important thing to know about me is _____.
- Other people like me because I am _____.
- The thing I do best is _____.
- I am easily impressed by _____.
- One thing I am afraid of is _____.
- I feel happy when _____.

Have students share their information. **It’s fun to get to know each other better. But it’s also a good idea to get to know yourself better. That might sound silly, but we all need to know who we are and what we stand for so that when we are faced with difficult choices we can make decisions that are consistent with who we want to be.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

SYMBOLS OF ME

Materials: construction paper, pencils, scissors, glue, poster board

Out of colored construction paper, have the students draw, cut, and paste to create a symbol that represents themselves on a sheet of poster board. They may choose from nature, geometric designs, hobbies, interest, talents, etc. You may want to make one for yourself as an example. Only allow 5 minutes to make this picture, as it should be the images that immediately pop into their minds. Allow the students to share why they chose to make their symbol. **Symbols are used in so many different places and they are meant to identify with a bigger idea. While we work on this lesson, continually ask yourself, am I a symbol that people would identify with belonging to God?**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

The Bible story section of this lesson will be different from previous lessons in that there is no single story or scripture that will be the focus. Rather, we will search the Bible on an interactive quest to discover what it means to be a temple for God and how we are to conduct our lives to be a holy temple for our Lord and Savior. (There are websites listed below to use to locate statistics.)

1) www.cdc.gov 2) www.abstinencedu.com 3) www.nida.nih.gov

A. What does the Bible say about sex?

1. Read Exodus 20:14, Genesis 39:9, and Matthew 5:27-28.

Define in your own words adultery. Is it only a physical act or is there more to it? Against whom is adultery a sin? How does Matthew 5: 28 apply to pornography?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20. **Why is the first phrase of verse 12 in quotation marks?** Paul is quoting someone else, probably someone in the Corinthian church that made this boast, which is, of course, incorrect.

3. Reread 1 Corinthians 6:15-16 and then go to Genesis 2:24. **What does it mean to become one flesh? What are the consequences of becoming one flesh with a prostitute or a promiscuous person?** Diseases shared among the flesh, dis-ease (lack of ease) of the spirit, guilt, shame, emptiness, damaged reputation, low self-esteem, etc. **What does Paul mean when he says “but I will not be mastered by anything”?** Do not allow your sinful desires rule over you or control your behavior and choices.

4. Read Ephesians 5:3-6 and Galatians 5:19-21. **List the characteristics of a Godless or sinful person. What will those who exhibit these characteristics NOT inherit?** *the kingdom of God*

5. Reread Ephesians 5:4 & 12 and then Ephesians 4:29. **Can what you talk about also be regarded as sexual immorality? YES! How and why?** What you say may lead others to temptation and or falling away. It may give the impression that it is OK to act on the things you are joking about; God says Don’t do it! **What does Ephesians 5:12 warn against?** gossip

6. Summarize: **Sex with multiple partners is forbidden and a poor choice both physically (diseases, unwanted pregnancy, etc.) and spiritually (will not inherit the Kingdom of God). Sexual immorality can occur in the mind as well as physically. Any sex act outside marriage is a sin. Talking crudely and viewing porn are also sins. Purity is mental, spiritual, and physical.**

Get Set!



Bible Story

B. What does the Bible say about alcohol and drug abuse?

1. Read 1 Samuel 1:14, Proverbs 20:1, 21:17, 23:20-21, 23:29-35, Hosea 4: 10-11, Habakkuk 2:15-16a. **What is the clear message in all of these verses?** Do not become drunk on any substance. **Why?** It impairs your judgment, takes away understanding of action, reason, and God's Will, causes brawls and strife, leads to foolishness, poverty, sorrow, addiction.
2. Read Ephesians 5: 15-18, and Galatians 5: 19-21, Romans 13:12-14, 1 Peter 3-5, 7. **What is the New Testament instruction regarding turning your mind over to intoxicating substances? Why must we stay clear-minded and self-controlled?** The end of this age will approach without warning and is near and we must be prayerful and aware in order to be ready
3. **None of these verses specifically mention cocaine, marijuana, LSD, ecstasy, crack, etc. How do we know that they are included in the instructions regarding alcohol?** If we are to be clear-minded and self-controlled, we can only assume that that refers to anything that will impair judgment and behavior. Addictions of all kinds are to be avoided because they become false gods and we are their slaves.
4. **In what ways are drug abuse and sexual immorality linked?** One may easily lead to another. GHB, a date rape drug is a good example for even the cautious. Remind your students, that when with groups of people in unsupervised or poorly supervised situations (parties, movies, school dances, etc.) to never accept an open beverage of any kind. Always get your own, open it yourself and to share it with no one. GHB is odorless, colorless, and tasteless and can quickly and easily be slipped into any beverage.
5. **Based on the scriptural information, what can we say about tobacco?** It should also be avoided as it pollutes the body, alters the mind, and creates an addiction. Remember an addiction is a false God since you become enslaved to it.

Get Set!



Bible Story

C. God's Expectations and Rewards for Purity

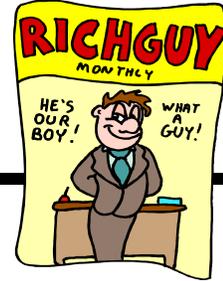
Read each of the following scriptures and classify them as reward, expectation, or both. Discuss your answers and be able to tell why you classified each the way you did.

2 Peter 1:5-11 (*both*)
1 Corinthians 10:31 (*expectation*)
Matthew 5:8 (*reward*)
Romans 13:14
1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
1 Timothy 4:12
Psalms 119:9
Ephesians 4:22-24
Galatians 5:22-23
Romans 6:19-23
Romans 12:1-2
Revelation 22:12-16

Go!

Conflicting Messages

ART



Materials: Several advertisements for secular magazines (pick these out ahead of time), markers, poster board, Bibles

Procedure: Pass out advertisements to the students who will work collaboratively to cut and paste pictures/phrases onto one side of a poster board as well as label the pictures with the messages they send concerning our appearance. On the other side of the poster board, have teens write down what messages we get from the Bible, using John 7:24, 1 Samuel 16:7, Psalm 147:10-11 and Matthew 23:27-28.

Quest Connection

Are the messages we hear from magazine advertisements and from the Bible the same? How are they similar? How are they different? With magazines, television, radio, movies, video games and the internet, we get bombarded with messages about what we are supposed to look like all the time. It’s hard to know sometimes what is cool and what is out of style and it’s especially hard to keep up with *all* the trends *all* the time. But what we learn from scripture is that the things that we are told by the world are important are not the same things that are important to God. Fashion gurus might notice if you wear the wrong kind of jeans, but God isn’t noticing your outfit, He’s noticing your heart. It’s easy to keep trying to live up to the standards set by the media, but God wants us be more concerned with our hearts, keeping His temple clean and ready to be a dwelling place for Him. At this time in your lives there are often many obstacles that come in your way that will defile the temple of God rather than keep it holy. What are some of those obstacles? (Pressures to drink underage, have premarital sex, go to places and parties that are against family rules, watching inappropriate television shows and movies, crud joking and vulgar language, etc.) God does not expect that we won’t face these obstacles and even be tempted to participate. But all these obstacles that seem to be ways to increase our coolness factor, God says are not important at all. So be careful when you are faced with temptation to listen to worldly messages and remember that with God’s spirit living in you, you can overcome any and all of these obstacles.

Close

I want to encourage you to try avoid reading magazines that include these type of advertisements and articles that tell you that you look like is so important. They are simple lies and they make it harder and harder to remember what is most important, your heart. So just try it, try to avoid them and I think you’ll find that you really aren’t missing out on much at all!

Go!**Getting Prepared****CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: Pencils, *Purity Preparation* worksheet, chalkboard, chalk

Procedures: Depending on your class size, divide the students into two or four groups. Have each group come up with either one situation (groups of four) or two situations (groups of two) where they would be faced with temptation that would compromise their purity. Have them fill them in the chart provided on the worksheet. When the groups are finished, have them share their examples with the entire class with each group using the other’s to fill in the rest of their chart so that each group has their own ideas as well as the ideas of their peers. Record all of the situations on a chalkboard to make it easy for each group to copy group ideas onto their own individual worksheet.

Quest Connection

Being well-prepared when tempting situations present themselves, gives you the power to be logical and informed when making choices. It doesn’t mean the temptation won’t be strong and powerful, but it does mean that you will have scripture and positive solutions to lean on in order to overcome temptation. Another way to be prepared is to lean on each other for support and to encourage one another to make healthy and wise decisions. When you see that one of your friends is trying to overcome temptation, be respectful and reaffirming of their decisions. Don’t just avoid temptation, also avoid tempting or pressuring your friends to make unhealthy choices. It’s a battle to fight off temptation, but it makes the battle so much easier when we are prepared and ready to fight!

Close

Keep these charts with you somewhere so that you can easily refer to them. I think they will be very useful for you or a friend. Remember, support each other!

Go!**My Choices****CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: Pencils, *What Are My Choices? worksheet*

Procedure: Pass out worksheets and pencils to each student. **We all make choices every day... about the foods we eat, the color of our notebooks, the books we read, the friends we talk to, etc.** Using the list of words and phrases, write the ones you can make choices about or are in control of inside the silhouette.

Quest Connection

God allows us to choose to be His holy people. Once we have made that choice, we are freed from our slavery to sin and able, with His help, to choose to be a pure and living sacrifice for Him. Through the Bible we have clear instructions on how to live for God.

Close

Challenge your students to memorize Romans 6:19-23, 12:1-2, and Revelation 22:12-16 as a ready defense when they are faced with challenges and temptations.



Go!**Forgiveness****DRAMA**

Materials: Wigs, glasses, jewelry and other fun costume items

Procedure: Read John 8:2-11. **This is a great story of forgiveness, but now I want us as a class to reenact it, only with a few different endings. The first time through I want it to end with Jesus condemning the woman. The second time through I want it to end with Jesus praising the woman for good choices and staying true to her emotions and desires. Then the final time through I want it to end with the woman saying she can not accept Christ’s forgiveness because she is too bad and has messed up too many times.** Divide the class into roles, which can be changed for each ending. If anyone is uncomfortable active, allow them to have a non-speaking role or to be the costume/set designer. Be sure to encourage the student’s creativity and talent.

Quest Connection

We definitely have some great wonderful talent in our class today! Of course we were acting out pretend endings that we know aren’t really the way it happened. But sometimes we fall into the trap of thinking that Jesus came to make us feel guilty for all the bad things we do and He wants to condemn us for every sin we commit. Or sometimes we believe what we see on television and in movies, that it’s best to do what we want and what feels good and it really makes no difference to Jesus and has no real impact on our faith. And other times we feel so foolish for the mistakes we’ve made that we think we are beyond repair and that we simple can’t be forgiven or trusted again. But this story is important because it does NOT have any of these endings and it doesn’t support any of these ideas. No matter what we’ve done in our past and not matter what sin we bring before Jesus, He wants to loves us, He wants us to turn away from sin that has hurtful consequences for ourselves and for others, and we can be forgiven. We can make the choice to accept Christ’s forgiveness and “sin no more.”

Close

Close with prayer thanking God for the forgiveness of sin offered through His Son and the opportunity for fresh beginnings.

Go!**Professional Opinion****GUEST QUEST****Materials:** None

Procedure: Ask a member of your congregation who is either in the Medical field or the law enforcement field to visit you class and talk about the effects and prevalence of drugs, alcohol and/or prevalence and consequences of sexual activity in adolescents (disease, pregnancy, etc.). Give your guest enough forewarning to prepare a presentation for your class and then allow the students to ask questions and respond to the information.

Quest Connection

God warns us against these behaviors because they are bad for us on many levels. We must trust that just as a loving parent protects her toddler, God wants what is best for us.

Close

Thank your guest and if appropriate ask your guest to close the class in prayer.



Go!**Black and White****OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Three squares of poster board or heavy weight paper in black, off-white or eggshell and bright white

Procedure: Hide the bright white square of paper and show the students the black and the off-white one. Ask them what colors the two are. They will say black and white. Congratulate them on their intelligence and visual acuity. Then tell them that they are wrong. Display the bright white page next to the off-white.

**Quest Connection**

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8. Christians are called to a pure and holy life in God. We are called to purity. But if as humans we cannot be wholly pure, what is our hope? Now let's look at 1 Corinthians 10:13 and Isaiah 1:18. God is faithful and just and through Him all things are possible.

Close

Cut off a piece of white poster board for each student and have them use it bookmark Isaiah 1:18.

Go!**Purity Pledge****PLEDGE**

Materials: Copies of the purity pledge from the resources provided for this lesson

Quest Connection

According to the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health, the most effective tool in increasing the age of sexual debut (loss of virginity) in grades 7-12 was a pledge of virginity. It decreased beginning early sexual habits by 75%. Allow each student to spend a few minutes in silent prayer considering this statistic. **Pray aloud for each student individually asking that God guide him/her, give him/her the strength and the will to lead pure life. Ask God to help each one to stay pure. Pray that each one will resist substances that alter and pollute their bodies and minds.**

Procedure: Give each student a copy of the pledge form. Impress upon them that it is a solemn vow between them and God and must not be taken lightly. The decision must be wholly their own because only they will be held accountable to God for that vow.

Close

Those who choose to make the vow may be presented to the congregation during which they can repeat their vow and the Pastor may wish to lead the congregation in affirming and promising to support these young people. *Under no circumstances should any who do not make the vow at this time be singled out. We must continue to pray for them to be convicted for purity and be examples to them at all time.*

Purity Preparation

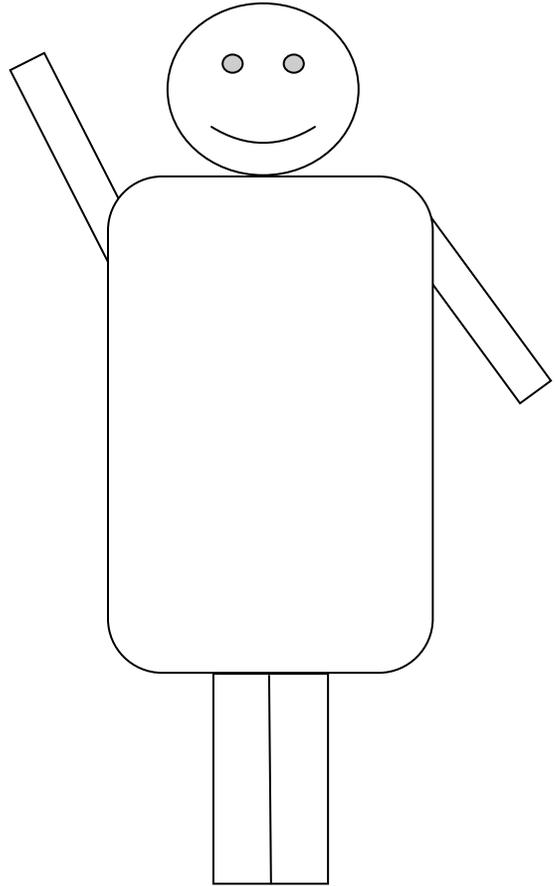
On this page record events that may challenge your purity, how you might feel about it, a way to resist the temptation, and a one line prayer.

EVENT	FEELINGS	SOLUTION	PRAYER
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



1. WEATHER
2. MOTHER/FATHER
3. THE SCHOOL YOU ATTEND
4. BEING BAPTIZED
5. SEX
6. CRIME RATE IN YOUR TOWN
7. AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
8. USING DRUGS
9. TEST SCORES
10. TEACHERS
11. WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE
12. ATTITUDE
13. ENEMIES
14. DRINKING ALCOHOL
15. ATTENDING SCHOOL
16. ATTENDING CHURCH
17. PRAYER
18. SIBLINGS
19. USING TOBACCO
20. PARTICIPATING IN CRIME
21. GETTING DETENTION AT SCHOOL
22. WHICH TEACHERS YOU GET
23. GRADE POINT AVERAGE
24. WHAT PRIVILEGES YOU GET
25. ACCEPTING GOD

What are my ***CHOICES?***





“From this day on, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to a lifetime of purity including sexual abstinence until marriage and abstaining from substances that will intoxicate my mind and soil my body. From this day forward I present myself a living and holy sacrifice to the Lord.”

Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Witnesses: _____

Pastor: _____

Which of the following would boost your self-worth?

<input type="checkbox"/> losing weight	<input type="checkbox"/> being more athletic
<input type="checkbox"/> clear skin	<input type="checkbox"/> getting better grades
<input type="checkbox"/> a thriving social life	<input type="checkbox"/> driving an expensive car
<input type="checkbox"/> dressing in name-brand clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> having a girlfriend/boyfriend
<input type="checkbox"/> living in a nice house	<input type="checkbox"/> receiving compliments
<input type="checkbox"/> being popular	<input type="checkbox"/> being a leader

All of the above choices have to do with our external appearance, how others view us and how we see ourselves based on their judgments. But when you choose to be a believer in Christ, you become the temple of God where His spirit lives; your self-worth no longer has to be defined and dependent on how you appear in a mirror but how you appear as a forgiven child of God. Your worth can no longer be taken from you because you aren't pretty enough, accepted enough, or worthy enough; it is cemented in God's love for you. He wants to live in you. How does this change the way you see yourself and the way you look at others around you?
