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a resource in:
Sunday School

Sexual Purity Lessons



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Sexual Purity

Overview

We live in a sexual society. Our young people are encountering sexual messages every day. Wonderfully, the Bible speaks to the topic of sex. The Sexual Purity Sunday School lessons contained here include five lessons intended for grades 9-12. However, with adjustments, teachers may find the content also useful for Jr. High classes. These lessons should not be considered exhaustive but are designed to provide a framework for themes surrounding the sexual purity topic. Teachers are encouraged to use these lessons to help support their lessons on the topic of sexual purity.

Lesson 1: Biblical Sexuality

1. The student will understand that God created sexuality and it reflects His oneness.
2. The student should realize our sexual understanding is continually being formed for good or bad.

Lesson 2: Sexual Purity-Get up

1. Students will understand that sexual sin originates in the heart.
2. Students will see the Gospel as the essential solution to the guilt we bear as a result of sexual guilt.

Lesson 3: Sexual Purity-Stay up

1. Students will understand the “cycle of temptation” and see that faith in God is essential for sexual purity.
2. Students will understand the terms “triggers” and “venues” as it concerns the sexual purity battle.
3. Students will understand the need for relationships in order to “overcome” sexual temptation.

Lesson 4: Sexual Purity-Move up

1. Students will understand what “overcoming” looks like in the Christian life.
2. Students will see their sexual sins in context with what God is most interested in – us facing Him.

Lesson 5: Sexual Orientation

1. Students will understand that we are all “bent” and affected by the “Fall.”
2. Students will understand that identity lies at the heart of the sexual orientation discussion.
3. Students will see that biblical “truth and grace” will walk out of step with both the political right and political left. Yet, it provides the best answer for everyone.

Sexual Purity

Lesson 1 - Biblical Sexuality

Recommended Age/Class: **High School** (9th-12th grade)

Lesson Objectives:

1. The student will understand God created sexuality and it reflects His oneness.
2. The student should realize that our sexual understanding is continually being formed for good or bad.

Opening Activity:

Teachers may want to bring in a mirror, or an assortment of mirrors that illustrate the following object lesson.

We all have had experience in looking in a mirror that distorts the image. Whether at a carnival or other attraction sometimes these mirrors exaggerate our height making us look taller than we really are. Sometimes they exaggerate our waist, making us look wider than we really are.

The objective of mirror reflection is simple. The objective is to reflect with accuracy the pre-image onto the mirror surface. When we look into the mirror, we are seeing a representative image of the pre-image.

God created sexuality to reflect attributes of Himself. However, Satan has twisted the mirror so that we arrive at vastly different opinions about sex and also about God. If we continue to look into Satan's twisted mirrors, we will never think rightly about sex or God.

Wonderfully, the Scriptures provide the accurate, vivid reflection of God and sexuality.

Scripture:

Genesis 2:22-24

²² *And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

²³ *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

²⁴ *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

¹⁵ *Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.*

¹⁶ *What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.*

¹⁷ *But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.*

¹⁸ *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

¹⁹ *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

²⁰ *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

John 17:21-26

²¹ *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

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²² *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

²³ *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

²⁴ *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*

²⁵ *O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.*

²⁶ *And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.*

Lesson Content:

- Sexual intimacy makes us “one” with another person. (*Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 6:16*)
- The Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is One with itself. (*John 17:21*)
- The Gospel welcomes us into fellowship and oneness with God. (*John 17:21,22; 1 Corinthians 6:17*)
- While God has created us as sexual beings, we have not been created for the purpose of sex. Rather we have been created to be one with Him through repentance, belief and baptism. Thus, the sexual experience is not the height of the human experience. Redemption through Jesus is.
- Satan is not a creator; only God creates. Therefore, sexual vice is a result of Satan’s corruption of God’s gifts.
- Satan’s corruption of sexuality is both overt and covert. Truth mingled with error. The messages are prevalent and subtlety persuasive. Some examples include:
 - o Sex is power.
 - o Sex is everything.
 - o Sex is about you. If you have urges, carrying them out is necessary to fulfill you.
 - o Sex is harmless.
 - o Sex should be separated from love.
 - o Sex is not spiritual.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you believe God created sex? In what ways does it reflect Him?
2. If unity with God through Jesus Christ is the unity that supersedes sex, what hope does this provide to the following?
 - a. Never married
 - b. Married with an ill spouse
 - c. Divorced
 - d. Widowed
3. Consider your last week. Did sexual messages present themselves to your thoughts? How? What were their messages?
4. What effect did those messages have on your thinking?
5. Identify places that repeatedly undermine your holy understanding of sex.

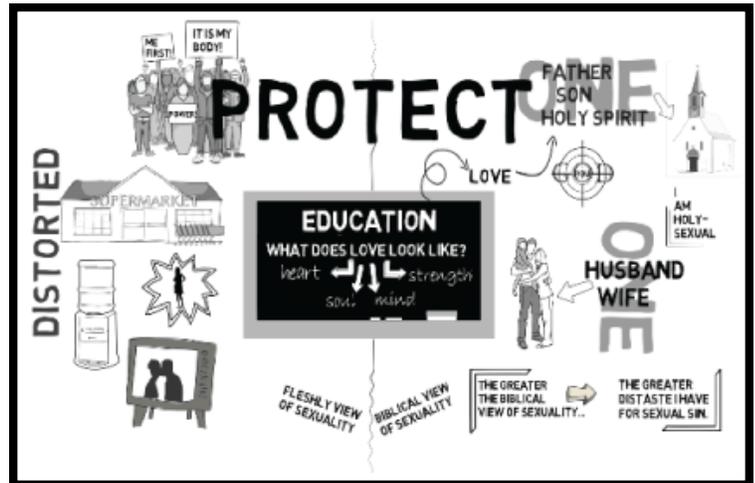
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Challenge:

1. Be able to spot and renounce corrupt messages about sex.
2. Avoid those places that commonly undermine your holy understanding of sex.
3. Reteach your thinking about sex towards a biblical view of sex.

Supplemental Resources:

- “Protect Your Sex Education” poster
https://www.accounseling.org/sexual_purity_worksheet-sexual_education/
- “Protect Your Sex Education” videoscribe
<http://www.accounseling.org/sex-education/>



Sexual Purity

Lesson 2 - Sexual Purity: Get Up

Recommended Age/Class: **High School** (9th-12th grade)

Lesson Objectives:

1. Students will understand that sexual sin originates in the heart.
2. Students will see the Gospel as the essential solution to the guilt we bear as a result of sexual guilt.

Opening Activity:

Compare and contrast the two graded math worksheets. Pretend you are the 1st grader Sara.

1. How is the teacher's feedback different between these two examples?
2. How is the teacher's feedback similar between these two examples?
3. Sara probably doesn't "feel good" with either feedback message. However, contrast how each feedback message might make her feel.
4. Which message brings shame? Which message brings guilt? Which one will most likely bear a better outcome?

KS Learning

$-17 + \frac{4}{21} = 19\%$ F

Sara, you are a very poor math student. When will you catch on? This is the easy stuff!

~~Sara~~

Adding 2 single-digit numbers

Grade 1 Addition Worksheet

Find the sums

1) $2 + 8 = 9$ 2) $5 + 5 = 11$ 15) $6 + 3 = 7$

KS Learning

$-17 + \frac{4}{21} = 19\%$ F

Sara, we have some mistakes that we need to fix.

Sara

Adding 2 single-digit numbers

Grade 1 Addition Worksheet

Find the sums

1) $2 + 8 = 9$ 2) $5 + 5 = 11$ 15) $6 + 3 = 7$

Scripture:

Matthew 5:28-30

²⁸ But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

²⁹ And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

³⁰ And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

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Micah 7:8-10

⁸ Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.

⁹ I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

¹⁰ Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.

2 Corinthians 7:9-11

⁹ Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

¹⁰ For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

¹¹ For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Lesson Content:

- While sexual sin plays itself out in our physical bodies, the sin begins in our hearts. (*Matthew 5:28*)
- Sexual sin should be taken seriously. (*Matthew 5:29,30*)
- Sexual sin often produces shame. The belief that “I am the mistake.”
- Shame alone is not helpful. It will never deliver the sinner. The shameful are more apt to continue in sin. Shame is helpful in so far as it brings us to a healthy guilt. The belief that “I made a mistake.”
- When we fall into the darkness of sexual sin and incur guilt, God enters that darkness with us. (*Micah 7:8*) We do not have to lighten the darkness by ourselves. He is the light in our darkness.
- Our sin does bear consequences. We feel the chastisement of God. (*Micah 7:9*)
- God takes up our cause. Jesus executed judgment for us by His own death and resurrection. He wishes to bring us out of darkness. (*Micah 7:9*)
- The goal of His redemption is not only our purity restored. It is so we can behold His righteousness. (*Micah 7:9*)
- God will defeat sin. What once oppressed us is now beneath us. (*Micah 7:10*)

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between shame and guilt?
2. Have you found that sin is isolating? What hope does *Micah 7:8,9* provide when we find ourselves in darkness? Compare this with the opposite – suppose when we are in darkness, the Lord is not a light unto us. He does not lead us into God’s light but we are supposed to lead ourselves into God’s light. Explain why this is a bleak picture.
3. Sin has consequences. What are some of the consequences of sexual sin?
4. In what way is the conviction of sin a gift from God? (*Hebrews 12:6,7*)
5. Compare and contrast “godly sorrow” and the “sorrow of the world”? How are they alike? How are they different? (*2 Corinthians 7:9-11*)

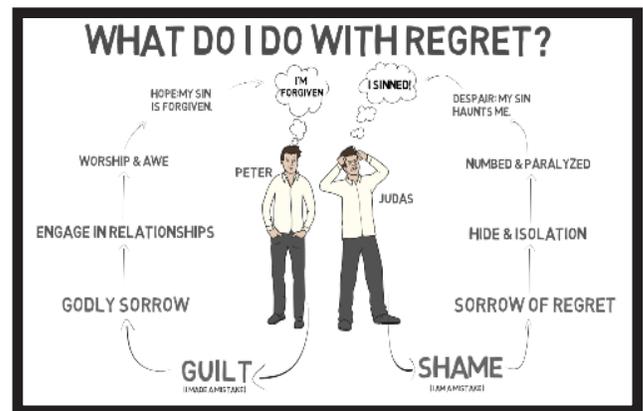
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Challenge:

1. Do you feel shame or guilt because of sexual sin? Imagine the peace that is possible through Jesus.
2. Repent towards God. Bring your sin to the light. Confess your sin to God and to a trusted person. Confess God's righteousness. Ask Christ for His grace and forgiveness. Trust in His salvation.

Supplemental Resources:

- “What do I do with Regret” poster
<https://www.accounseling.org/what-do-i-do-with-regret/regret-2/>
- “What do I do with Regret?” videoscribe
<https://www.accounseling.org/what-do-i-do-with-regret/>



Sexual Purity

Lesson 3 - Sexual Purity: Stay Up

Recommended Age/Class: **High School** (9th-12th grade)

Lesson Objectives:

1. Students will understand the “cycle of temptation” and see that faith in God is essential for sexual purity.
2. Students will understand the terms “triggers” and “venues” as it concerns the sexual purity battle.
3. Students will understand the need for relationships in order to “overcome” sexual temptation.

Opening Activity:

Bring to class a bottle of dirty water and an appetizing donut. Ask the class if obedience is easy or hard. Ask them if they think their parents feel more or less respected when they are obeyed. Ask for a volunteer. Ask the volunteer if they like drinking water. Present the dirty drinking water in the bottle and instruct them not to drink it. When the student refuses to drink the dirty water ask for a new volunteer. Ask them if they like donuts. If they do, present the donut and instruct them not to eat it. Supposing they don't eat the donut, ask the class which student showed more honor by his/her obedience. Notice that the student who turned away from what they wanted (donut) exhibited more honor. The “donut obedience” was deeper because that student had to say “no” to their appetites, desires and wants. By agreeing to be obedient that student said “I believe the teacher is right and good in asking me not to eat this donut.” In the same way, when we turn from temptation we are saying, “I agree with God. He is good and right in His commands.” This is ultimately an act of faith and worship.

Scripture:

James 1: 2, 3, 12-15

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

¹² *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

¹³ *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

¹⁴ *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

¹⁵ *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

³ *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

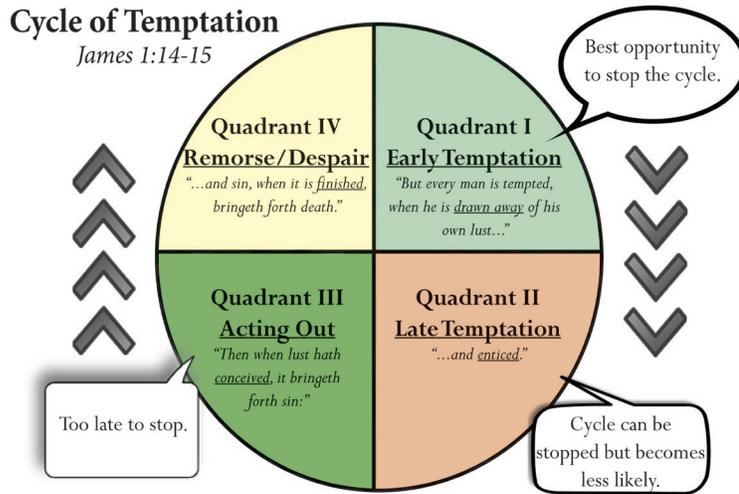
⁴ *That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

⁵ *Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:*

Sexual Purity

Lesson Content:

- Temptation is not sin. It is the allurements to sin. (*Mark 1:13*)
- The Cycle of Temptation outlined in *James 1* addresses how one transitions from early temptation to late temptation to sin and finally remorse.



- It should be noted that we exercise faith in God when we turn away from temptation. In that difficult moment, we worship dearly. When all our senses are saying "do it!" our obedience in that moment says "I believe God is right" or "I believe God is good." This is faith indeed.
- Triggers are those internal or external conditions that temptation plays on.

Trigger Examples	
Internal	External
Boredom	Home alone
Stress	Associations (certain people)
Frustration	Swimming pool

- Venues are those mediums through which we indulge in sexual vice. Examples are advertisements, magazines, movies, YouTube, social media, etc...
- The Bible calls Believers to know how to possess their bodies into sanctification and honor. (*1 Thessalonians 4:4*) Jesus instructed us to "cut off" those avenues through which we sexually sin. (*Matthew 5:29,30*) It is important we know what our triggers are and the venues through which we fall to sexual sin. Taking proactive steps to protect us from these triggers and venues is our responsibility.
- Recall that in the last lesson we learned that sexual vice thrives in isolation. Sexual vice is fought in the light of relationships.
- Two important groups of relationships are necessary. The first is companions. It is important that you have a group of companions that you enjoy being with. This group should share the desire to be sexually pure. The second group will be smaller in number. They act as an accountability group. This may include believing parents, siblings, grandparents or trusted mentors.
- An accountability partner is someone who you can confide in about your sexual struggles, your triggers and venues. This is a person you can reach out to during bouts of temptation (see quadrant 1 and 2 in above figure) and to whom you can confess sin (see quadrant 4).
- It should be noted that proactive accountability occurs in quadrant 1. Reactive accountability happens in quadrant 4.

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Discussion Questions:

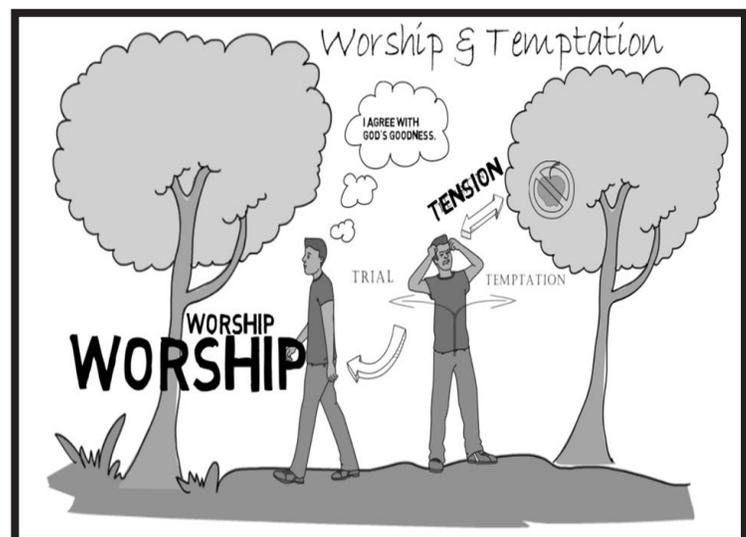
1. What is the difference between proactive and reactive accountability? What makes proactive accountability difficult to do? Why is it more helpful than reactive accountability?
2. When you are being tempted, do you feel near to God or far away? What hope is there in knowing that when you are being tempted you are near to worship? How can a moment of temptation turn to worship? How do you think God feels toward a person who while in temptation, turns from sin towards Him?
3. What qualities should you look for in an accountability partner?
4. Use the Trigger and Venue worksheet to identify the triggers and venues through which Satan tempts you to sin sexually.

Challenge:

1. This week when temptation presents itself, worship by turning from it.
2. Reach out to a trusted person who could serve as an accountability partner.
3. Knowing your venues and triggers, what sacrifice can you make to protect your sexual purity?

Supplemental Resources:

- Trigger and Venue worksheet https://www.accounseling.org/sexual_purity_worksheet- lifestyle/
- “Worship and Temptation” poster https://www.accounseling.org/sexual_purity_worksheet- temptation_vs_worship/
- “Worship and Temptation” videoscribe <https://www.accounseling.org/worship-and-temptation/>
- Temptation cycle handout <https://www.accounseling.org/circle-of-temptation/>



Sexual Purity

Lesson 4 - Sexual Purity: Move Up

Recommended Age/Class: **High School** (9th-12th grade)

Lesson Objectives:

1. Students will understand what “overcoming” looks like in the Christian life.
2. Students will see their sexual sins in context with what God is most interested in - us facing Him.

Opening Activity:

Show the class a picture such as the one at right (dog eating a dirty bone). Suppose we wanted the dog not to eat dirty bones. We could take it away from him. What could the consequences of this action be? Is there a better way? Suppose we dropped a lamb chop in front of him. He would gladly give up his dirty bone for the lamb chop. In the same way, God prohibits a lot of sexual gratification. He offers us much more in exchange for the “dirty bone.” (Note: loving sexuality in marriage is an example but NOT the only example. It is important for students to understand that satisfaction in God is obtained in celibacy also.)



Scripture:

Colossians 3:1-17

¹ *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

² *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

³ *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

⁴ *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

⁵ *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

⁶ *For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

⁷ *In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.*

⁸ *But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

⁹ *Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;*

¹⁰ *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

¹¹ *Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

¹² *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*

¹³ *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

¹⁴ *And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*

¹⁵ *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

¹⁷ *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

Sexual Purity

Lesson Content:

- Deliverance from sexual vice may or may not be the eradication of sexual temptation.
- Deliverance is daily and sometimes moment-by-moment. By God's grace we have the power to overcome sexual temptation and obey Him.
- Purity is not a location. It is a direction. We continually, day-by-day walk in a Godward direction.
- Failure is met with repentance. When we fall, we get back up. We move up.
- Use the "What does an overcoming Christian life look like?" document to provide needed details.
- God is more concerned by our "facing Him" than He is in our current failure. Notice the shape of *Colossians 3*. Face God first (*vs 1-4*), put off sin second (*vs 5-9*), put on righteousness third (*vs 10-14*), and peace results (*vs 15-17*).

Discussion Questions:

1. When Moses saw God up on Mt. Sinai was he changed? (*Exodus 34*) How so? When we behold God will we be changed? How so?
2. What does *Psalms 80:3* say happens when we face God?
3. How does one face God? What needs to happen?
4. Is the Christian life all about NOT doing certain things? Does God prohibit things to make our lives hard? What are some of His purposes?
5. *Psalms 23:1* says that "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." What does this mean for our sexual purity battles?

Challenge:

1. Do you want God more than sexual vice? This is a critical question. Do you believe that a God facing life is better than a life with illicit sexual gratification?
2. If no. Pray that God changes your heart. If yes, pray that you can turn toward Him.

Supplemental Resources:

- "Overcoming" document <https://www.accounseling.org/what-does-an-overcoming-christian-life-look-like>
- "Beholding the Father" videoscribe <https://www.accounseling.org/beholding-the-father/>

What does an overcoming Christian life look like?

An overcomer SPEAKS...

- **Honesty** They are truthful and do not minimize or hide when questions are posed to them. Open about spiritual battles.
- **Practicality** Lifelines others of temptations and high-risk situations that they are facing. Don't's can't wait until a fall to speak up.
- **IN A SET BACK**: An overcomer speaks quickly. Confessing sin when asked or it happens. **MEDITATE ON PSALM 12 & 31.**

An overcomer THINKS...

- **Spiritual growth takes time**. It is a necessary process in a believer's life. Doesn't walk quick fixes but focuses on the long-term road.
- **Scripture is foundational**. Bible verses are memorized and reviewed to use against temptations.
- **IN A SET BACK**: An overcomer thinks reflectively on how the "chain of events" led to sin. **Meditate on James 1.**

An overcomer BELIEVES...

- God's extension of forgiving grace is beautiful, but more beautiful is His peace which follows obedience.
- The direction of their heart must be toward God. Having or having not sinned is not the only measure of overcoming.
- **IN A SET BACK**: An overcomer believes in the critical need for grace, repents in humility, receives God's forgiveness, and moves forward. **Meditate on Romans 4 & 7.**

An overcomer ACTIVELY...

- Sets boundaries and defenses to avoid temptations. Cuts off influences which weaken their ability to overcome.
- Forms accountability support with overcoming believers and submits to their counsel, even in times of victory.
- **IN A SET BACK**: An overcomer shows Godly sorrow, yet actively get back up. **Meditate on Ephesians 4:27-28 & Colossians 3.**

Sin

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Sexual Purity

Lesson 5 - Sexual Orientation

Recommended Age/Class: **High School** (9th-12th grade)

Lesson Objectives:

1. Students will understand that we are all “bent” and affected by the “Fall.”
2. Students will understand that identity lies at the heart of the sexual orientation discussion.
3. Students will see that biblical “truth and grace” will walk out of step with both the political right and political left. Yet, it provides the best answer for everyone.

Opening Activity:

Bring a small 2x4 wood plank (3 feet long) to class. Explain that the plank represents “truth and grace”. Stand on the plank and explain that remaining on the plank takes balance. Leaning too far to one side will cause you to fall off the plank. Such is the sexual orientation topic. Wisdom and care is needed to address the topic of sexual orientation so-as-to not fall off the plank of “truth and grace.”

Scripture:

Leviticus 18:5, 6, 18, 20, 22-24

⁵*Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD .*

⁶*None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the LORD .*

¹⁸*Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to vex her, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life time.*

²⁰*Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her.*

²²*Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.*

²³*Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion.*

²⁴*Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁹*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*

¹⁰*Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

¹¹*And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

Romans 1:20-31

²⁰*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

²¹*Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

²²*Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

²³*And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

Sexual Purity

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

³¹ Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Lesson Content:

- Definition of terms: The terms same sex attraction, homosexual, and gay mean different things to different people. As a general rule, they serve as markers on the identity continuum.
 - Same sex attraction: Romantic urges and longings for the same biological sex. May or may not engage in same sex activities.
 - Homosexual: An identification of one's same sex orientation. May or may not engage in same sex activities.
 - Gay: Self-identification and self-labeling. Engage in same sex activities.
- Recall from Lesson 1 that sexuality, as God designed it, has a lot to do with oneness. Loving sexuality in male/female marriage reflects Christ and the church. (*Ephesians 5:31,32*)
- When Christ was questioned about marriage, He went back to Genesis. Starting with male and female, He built an argument for life long covenantal marriage. (*Matthew 19: 3-12*)
- Illicit sex in all of its forms (outside a loving covenantal male/female marriage) is a sin before God. Homosexuality is not "worse" than other sexual vices. (*Leviticus 18*)
- Recall from Lesson 4 that God wants us to "Face Him". *Romans 1* accounts what happens when we don't face him.
 - We don't face Him (*vs 21*).
 - We live out our lusts (*vs 24*).
 - Homosexuality is one sin (*vs 26, 27*) among many (*vs 29-31*)
- All of us are broken and bent. None of us are "straight." (*vs 29-31*)
- The Gospel is hope and good news for our brokenness. It has historically delivered the sinner (of all types). (*1 Corinthians 6:9-12*)
- Deliverance may or may not be the absolving of one's struggle with same sex attraction. Deliverance from homosexuality is the grace given to live a celibate, God-honoring sexual life, free from lust though same sex attraction may be experienced. Paul's overcoming life was not the absolving of his thorn but instead Christ's magnification through the thorn. (*2 Corinthians 12:7-20*)
- Identity is huge. Ethnic genocide has marred history. It stands as proof that our identities makes people "fighting mad." Furthermore, sexual orientation is thought of as an identity. This is why this topic is super-charged. Wonderfully, the Gospel gives us a new identity. Our identities are not sexual – that is, homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual, etc. For example, Christ was the most fully human to ever walk the earth. He was not defined by his sexuality or lack thereof.

Sexual Purity

- There are two identities: “in Christ” or “out of Christ.” When we are “in Christ” this new identity overshadows all identities that pull at us. In the case of sexual orientation, our identity as being “in Christ” means that our sexual urges are brought into conformity to His Word. When we do, we operate most fully as a human being .

Discussion Questions:

1. Does the Gospel ask more of same sex attracted people? (That is – unable to live out passions?) Does the Gospel ask a lot out of you? If we don’t feel that the Gospel is asking for much change in us, what might that mean about our submission to God’s commands?
2. Knowing that those who are gay have identified themselves according to their sexual orientation, how does that help you understand why they may be so angered by statements of disapproval? If we see people as “gay” or “not gay,” how are we further substantiating the identity problem? What are ways that you can engage a self-declaring gay person such that it would not exacerbate his or her misplacement of identity?
3. Do you fall into sin when you are not “facing God?” How do you turn towards Him? What are some ways to help a same sex attracted person “face God?” What good news is there for “facing God?”

Challenge:

1. See people according to their true identity – people made in the image of God either “in Christ” or “out of Christ.”
2. See your own “bentness” as a fallen creation of God. Turn your face toward God and allow His refining work.
3. Christ always stood on “truth and grace.” Sometimes He was in step with culture and sometimes He was out of step with culture (ex. - Jesus with Samaritan woman). As you engage the sexual orientation issue, stand on “truth and grace” as Jesus did.

Sexual Purity

Supplemental Resources:

Stand on the truth... not “political” platforms.

Errors from the left and from the right

