

Youth Sunday School 9/29/24

DISCUSSION GUIDE



THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Make wise choices regarding pornography

BIBLE

Ephesians 5:15; 1 Corinthians 6:12, 18-20
Psalm 139:14; 1 Corinthians 10:13
Matthew 5:28-29

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Pornography can distort our view of people, and infect us with an unrealistic view of what sex and relationships should be. It can expose us to sexual situations that aren't healthy, respectful, or honoring of the other person. If we're talking truthfully about sex and relationships, we have to recognize that pornography can hold us back from God's best. We can set up pathways in our life to find forgiveness and freedom from what can become a dark addiction.

- What are some areas in your life where you get a lot of messages about sex? What do those things (movies, TV, and music) seem to believe about sex? Is it portrayed as something holy, good, or bad?
- Was church on that list? Why do you think it can be difficult to talk about sex and sexuality in church?
- Why do you think sex is such a big deal in our culture?
- If sex is such a prevalent topic in the world, why can it be hard to speak openly about?

READ 1 Corinthians 6:12, 18-20

- Paul said you're allowed to do anything, but not everything is good for you. What are some examples of things you have the freedom to do that may not be good for you?
- What do you think Paul meant when he used the phrase "sexual immorality"?
- When you're tempted to think about someone only in a sexual way, why is it helpful to ask yourself, "Is this objectifying them or valuing them?"
- Who is one person you can go to for guidance the next time you're tempted to see other people as objects?

VALUE: Sexualized images of people can distort our view of God's creation, distort our expectations for ourself or others. At the core of our theology is that we are created in God's image, and our bodies are sacred. We are to honor that image in each other. Read the following verses, and complete the activities, to reinforce this view:

READ more:

1 Corinthians 10:13

- How can this verse inspire you to live with integrity in every area of your life?
- What are ways you lean on God in times of temptation.

Matthew 5:28-29

- Jesus expands the meaning of adultery to include how we think about people.
- How does that change the way you view media that makes light of sex or pornography?

Psalm 139:14

How would middle/high school be different if everyone believed they were fearfully and wonderfully made?

ACTIVITY OPTION 1:

Choose from the provided scenarios, talk through wise and unwise paths a middle schooler could take: **ASK: WHAT IS THE WISE CHOICE** (not, “is this wise” but “what is the wise choice moving forward”).

- Scenario 1: A friend DMs you a picture you don't want anyone to know you have.
- Scenario 2: You are tempted to look up a video you wouldn't want others to know you're watching on your own.
- Scenario 3: Somebody asks you to send a picture of your body.
- Scenario 4: The person you're dating looks at pornography. You're uncomfortable with it but you don't know how to talk to them about it.
- Scenario 6: You were on your phone and something you weren't sure you were supposed to see popped up.
- Scenario 7: You read something in a book that talks about a sexual experience and you're not sure it's okay.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2:

If you have the numbers for it, split by boys and girls. Arrange the provided cards in a circle on the floor. Start a discussion about pursuing sexual integrity with the particular action point listed on each card. For every action point, ask your students questions like, “What make this difficult to do? Have you tried to do this before? What's one way you can try to do this particular thing?”
