

“PURSUING GODLY RELATIONSHIPS”



“Blessed are those who love you, O God, and love their friends in you and their enemies for your sake. They alone will never lose those who are dear to them for they love them in one who is never lost, in God, our God”
~St. Augustine

GFC YOUTH MINISTRIES LESSON SERIES—NOTES PAGES

“OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR PARENTS”

PERTINENT SCRIPTURES:

- Exodus 20:12 / Deut 5:16
- Deuteronomy 4:9 / 6:4-9 / 11:18-20
- Proverbs 22:6
- Proverbs 30:11
- John 9:13-23
- Luke 15:11-32
- Ephesians 6:1-4
- 1 Timothy 5:4 & 8
- Hebrew 12:7-13
- Proverbs 29:15

QUOTES TO PONDER:

- *“PARENTING—IF IT WERE SUPPOSED TO BE EASY IT WOULDN’T HAVE STARTED WITH SOMETHING CALLED LABOR”*
- *“PARENTING DEFINED— PEOPLE WHO BARE INFANTS, BORE TEENAGES AND BOARD NEWLYWEDS”*
- *“NO WONDER KIDS ARE LOST TODAY; HALF THE ADULTS TELL THEM TO FIND THEMSELVES, THE OTHER HALF TELL THEM TO GET LOST”*
- *THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT PARENTS KNOW THEIR KIDS WILL ALWAYS SHARE WILLINGLY; THE FLU AND THEIR MOTHERS AGE.”*
- *“THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE IN THE HOME IS MAINTAINED BY WARM HEARTS, NOT HOT HEADS”*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- WHAT ARE SOME CLASSIC STATEMENTS PARENTS MAKE THAT YOU REMEMBER?
“BECAUSE I SAID SO...” / “WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...” / “WAIT TIL YOUR FATHER GETS HOME...” “DON’T MAKE ME...”
- DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF HOW YOUR PARENTS MET? SHARE IT... (WE SHOULD CELEBRATE OUR PARENTS ANNIVERSARY)
- WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PARENTING? CHILDHOOD? DISCIPLINE? ETC.
- DO YOU HAVE REAL LIFE EXAMPLES THAT ARE A GOOD MODEL TO FOLLOW?
WHAT NEGATIVE EXAMPLES OF PARENTING DOES THE WORLD/POPULAR CULTURE, OR EVEN REAL LIFE OFFER THAT WE WANT TO AVOID?
- WHAT PRACTICAL WAYS CAN WE SEEK TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR PARENTS?

NOTES & THOUGHTS:

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“OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR PEERS / FRIENDS”

PERTINENT SCRIPTURES:

- Eccl. 4:8-12
- John 15:12-17
- Proverbs 27:17; 18:24; 17:17
- Acts 2:42
- Galatians 5:13-15
- 1Thes. 4:9-10; 5:11
- Hebrews 10:24

QUOTES TO PONDER:

- *“TRUE FRIENDS STAB YOU IN THE FRONT” ~ OSCAR WILDE*
- *“NEVER DO A WRONG THING TO MAKE A FRIEND OR KEEP ONE” ~ ROBERT E. LEE*
- *“SHARED JOY IS A DOUBLE JOY; SHARED SORROW IS HALF A SORROW” ~ SWEDISH PROVERB*
- *“I NEVER CONSIDERED A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IN POLITICS, IN RELIGION, IN PHILOSOPHY, AS A CAUSE FOR WITHDRAWING FROM A FRIENDSHIP” ~ THOMAS JEFFERSON*
- *“A FAITHFUL FRIEND IS A STURDY SHELTER, HE WHO FINDS ONE FINDS A TREASURE” ~ SIRACH 6:14—APOCRYPHA*
- *“A SURFACE FRIEND ASKS IF THERE IS ANYTHING IN THE FRIDGE TO DRINK, A REAL FRIEND GOES TO THE FRIDGE AND HELPS THEMSELVES WITHOUT ASKING”*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FRIENDSHIP? WHAT EXPECTATIONS / RESPONSIBILITIES DOES ‘FRIENDSHIP’ REQUIRE?
2. ARE THESE THE THINGS WE LOOK FOR WHEN WE ARE ENTERING INTO A NEW FRIENDSHIP?
3. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST OBSTACLES WE FACE TO DEVELOPING REAL/GENUINE/AUTHENTIC FRIENDSHIPS?
4. SHOULD A CHRISTIAN REMAIN LOYAL TO A FRIEND THAT:
 - WANTS YOU TO DO SOMETHING THAT IS WRONG IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED?
 - REPEATEDLY HURTS YOU?
 - IS NOT LOYAL TO YOU?
 - GOSSIPS ABOUT YOU?
5. HOW IS A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE OF FRIENDSHIP DIFFERENT FROM A NON-CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE?
6. IN WHAT PRACTICAL WAYS CAN WE DEMONSTRATE THE BIBLICAL IDEAL OF FRIENDSHIP?
 - WHAT COMMITMENTS ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE TO FRIENDSHIP?

David and Jonathan -

- 1 Samuel 18:1-4;
Covenant of Friendship established
- 1 Sam. 19:1-7
Friendship endures difficult situation and circumstances
- 1 Sam. 20:42; 2 Sam. 1:25-27; 9:7
Friendship is more than just a commitment or an oath, it is based on actions

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“OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX”

PERTINENT SCRIPTURES:

- Psalm 34:7
- Proverbs 5 & 31
- Ruth 3:9-13
- Songs of Solomon
- Isaiah 54:5; 62:4-5; Jer. 3:14
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- 1 Corinthians 7
- 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
- 1 Timothy 5:1-2
- Titus 2:2-7

QUOTES TO PONDER:

- *“THE BIBLE HAS A WORD TO DESCRIBE ‘SAFE SEX’: IT’S CALLED MARRIAGE” ~ GARY SMALLEY*
- *“THE BIBLE HAS A WORD TO DESCRIBE ‘PREMARITAL SEX’: IT’S CALLED FORNICATION” ~ RAY SHORT*
- *“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO USE YOUR LIPS FOR IN A RELATIONSHIP IS NOT KISSING, IT’S COMMUNICATING” ~ JOSHUA HARRIS*

CPYU RESEARCH -

IN A RECENT SURVEY OF 1,027 ADOLESCENTS FROM A NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH.

- *92% of teens agree with the statement that ‘being a virgin in high school is a good thing’, but only 46% of teens are NOT having sex*
- *Average age of first sex was 15.8 years*
- *Average length of first sexual relationship was 3.8 months*
- *24.3% of adolescents reported having first sex during the same month as the start of the relationship*
- *23.4% of first sexual relationships were “one-night stands”*
- *16.7% of adolescents (20.6% girls and 11.2% boys) who took virginity pledges became sexually active*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. HAVE YOU “GIVEN GOD THE PEN”?
ARE YOU ALLOWING GOD TO BE THE AUTHOR AND SCRIPT THIS AREA OF YOUR LIFE?
2. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO “GET A LOVE LIFE”?
ARE YOU SETTING YOURSELF UP FOR FUTURE SUCCESS BY YOUR ACTIONS NOW?
3. IN WHAT PRACTICAL WAYS ARE YOU “CULTIVATING TENDERNESS”?
IN WHAT PRACTICAL WAYS DO YOU SHOW MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX VALUE?
4. HAVE YOU RECRUITED A WINNING TEAM?
ARE THERE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE THAT ARE HOLDING YOU ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COMMITMENTS YOU HAVE MADE?

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“OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX”

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“OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX” PART 2

NOTES, THOUGHTS, IMPRESSIONS:

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“OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD”

PERTINENT SCRIPTURES:

- Psalm 103:19
- Matthew 5:1-12
- Matthew 7:2-4 / Luke 6:40-42
- Matthew 18:1-4
- Matthew 28:18
- Luke 19:9-10
- John 3:18
- John 18:36
- John 17:15-18
- 1 John 2:15-17
- 1 John 4:20
- Galatians 6:10
- 2Corinthians 10:3
- 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Revelation 11:15

QUOTES TO PONDER:

- *“THE TROUBLE WITH MOST CHRISTIANS TODAY IS THAT THEY WOULD RATHER BE ON THE JUDGMENT SEAT THAN ON THE WITNESS STAND.” ~ ANONYMOUS*
- *“THE HIGHEST FORM OF SELFISHNESS IS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS CONTENT TO GO TO HEAVEN ALONE.” ~ ANONYMOUS*
- *“PREACH THE GOSPEL AT ALL TIMES AND WHEN NECESSARY USE WORDS” ~ ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI*
- *“YOUR LIFE IS THE ONLY BIBLE SOME PEOPLE MIGHT EVER READ.” ~ ANONYMOUS*
- *“BE KNOWN AS A CHRISTIAN FOR THE “THINGS YOU DO” NOT FOR THE “THINGS YOU DON’T DO” ~ LUCAS PACE*
- *“IF YOU READ HISTORY YOU WILL FIND THAT THE CHRISTIANS WHO DID MOST FOR THE PRESENT WORLD WERE PRECISELY THOSE WHO THOUGHT MOST OF THE NEXT. IT IS SINCE CHRISTIANS HAVE LARGELY CEASED TO THINK OF THE OTHER WORLD THAT THEY HAVE BECOME SO INEFFECTIVE IN THIS” ~ CS LEWIS*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE THINGS THAT MOST TURN-OFF AN UNBELIEVER TO CHRISTIANITY?
2. DO YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF, AS A CHRISTIAN THINKING IN TERMS OF AN “US” AND “THEM” MENTALITY?
DOES THIS MENTALITY HINDER US FROM BEING AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS?
3. HAVE YOU EVER FOUND YOURSELF SAYING “THAT PERSON WILL NEVER GIVE THEIR LIFE TO CHRIST” OR “THEY’RE A LOST CAUSE” OR EVEN “WOW, THEY ARE REALLY SINFUL”?
4. DO YOU THINK CHRISTIANITY IS TOO IMMERSSED IN “WORLDLY” THINGS? GIVE EXAMPLES....
IE. CONSUMERISM/MATERIALISM, MONEY, POPULAR FADS/FASHIONS/TRENDS, PHYSICAL BEAUTY/APPEAL, ETC.
5. WORKING ON OUR PREMISE “ALL RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD GLORIFY GOD”, HOW CAN WE HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD THAT BRINGS HONOR AND GLORY TO THE FATHER?
IN WHAT PRACTICAL WAYS CAN WE BEST FULFILL OUR CALLING TO BE “IN THE WORLD” BUT “NOT OF THIS WORLD”?
WHAT WORLDLY AREA OF OUR LIFE CAN WE RELINQUISH TO CHRIST?

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“DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIPS”

PERTINENT SCRIPTURES:

- Job
- Hosea 1:1 - 2; 3:1
- Matthew 5:23 - 24
- Matthew 5:44 - 48
- Luke 6:27 - 36
- Ephesians 4:29
- Romans 12:14 - 18
- 1 Cor. 1:10 ; 2 Cor. 5:18
- Proverbs 19:11
- Philippians 2:4
- Romans 15:2
- 1 Peter 4:8

QUOTES TO PONDER:

- *“AS DAVID DID WITH PSALMS USE PRAYER TO VENTILATE VERTICALLY” ~ PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE*
- *AS CHRISTIANS WE NEED TO LEARN TO “DISAGREE WITHOUT BEING DISAGREEABLE” ~ PDL*
- *“GOD EXPECT UNITY, NOT UNIFORMITY...WE CAN WALK ARM-IN-ARM WITHOUT SEING EYE TO EYE” ~ PDL*
- *TO OFTEN WE MISTAKE AVOIDANCE AND/OR APPEASEMENT FOR PEACEMAKING ~ PDL*
- *“WHEN YOU RESORT TO SHOUTING IN A CONFLICT, YOU HAVE LOST CONTROL OF THE ONLY PERSON YOU CAN CONTROL...YOURSELF” ~ NEIL ANDERSON*
- *“IS IT ANY MERIT TO ABSTAIN FROM WINE IF ONE IS INTOXICATED WITH ANGER” ~ ST. AUGUSTINE*
- *“I CHOOSE GENTLENESS... NOTHING IS WON BY FORCE. I CHOOSE TO BE GENTLE. IF I RAISE MY VOICE MAY IT BE ONLY IN PRAISE. IF I CLENCH MY FIST, MAY IT BE ONLY IN PRAYER. IF I MAKE A DEMAND, MAY IT BE ONLY OF MYSELF.” ~ MAX LUCADO*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT PERSPECTIVES DOES SCRIPTURE OFFER ON DEALING WITH DIFFICULT RELATIONSHPHS, CIRCUMSTANCES, SITUATIONS?
2. WITH WHOM DO YOU STRUGGLE TO PURSUE GOD’S IDEAL? TO LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY?
WHO GETS UNDER YOUR SKIN (FLESH) THE MOST? WHY?
3. DO YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF AVOIDING/APPEASING CERTAIN PEOPLE, SITUATIONS, ISSUES; INSTEAD OF HANDLING CONFLICT?
4. IS IT POSSIBLE TO “BE AT PEACE WITH EVERYONE?” WHY OR WHY NOT? WHY DID GOD GIVE US THIS STANDARD?
5. WHAT PART DO YOU PLAY IN THE RELATIONSHIPS IN YOUR LIFE THAT ARE ‘DIFFICULT’?
6. WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE TO RECOGNIZE AND REACH OUT TO THOSE YOU NORMALLY WOULDN’T?
IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE WHO IS OUT THERE THAT YOU HAVE DISAPPOINTED OR HAS DISAPPOINTED YOU, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

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“OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD / JESUS / HOLY SPIRIT”

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