

**LESSON 2: PURITY**

This includes:

- 1. LEADER PREPARATION**
- 2. LESSON GUIDE**

**1. LEADER PREPARATION****LESSON OVERVIEW**

Our society says we're free to pursue whatever sexual practices we desire, as long as we don't physically hurt someone or commit adultery. But in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus suggests that each of us might be guiltier of sexual sin than we realize. "You've heard" that adultery is wrong, Jesus says, but thinking lustfully about someone is just as sinful. In this lesson, students will discover that Jesus challenges not only our harmful sexual actions but also our attitudes about sex.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES**

- 1. WHAT:** Students have heard that adultery is wrong, but Jesus says lustful thoughts are just as harmful.
- 2. WHY:** Jesus expands our understanding of sexual sin to include anything that goes against his patterns of integrity.
- 3. HOW:** Students will consider how they treat others by exploring Jesus' comparison of lust to adultery.

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 5:27-30

**SECONDARY SCRIPTURE**

Colossians 3:1-7

**TEACHING PREP**

**LEADER  
TIP**

**Use this short overview to prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your group, you'll want to absorb it as you prepare to lead.**

**Read Matthew 5:27-30.**

This passage continues Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, with a second set of dramatic teachings that challenges what the crowds had learned from society. Here Jesus challenges our comprehension of sexual sin, addressing what's in our hearts.

During Jesus' time, some religious leaders warned that women were dangerous because they could cause men to lust. But Jesus said the responsibility for this sin is solely on the person with the impure thoughts.

It's important for young people to realize that being attracted to another person isn't wrong. Instead, Jesus warns us against obsessing about someone, dehumanizing people with our thoughts, or pursuing or exploiting them sexually.

Lust not only leads to other sexual sins, but it also becomes a form of idolatry. When we obsess about another human being, we replace God's supremacy in our lives with another object of desire and affection.

Jesus' suggestion of drastic action (gouging out eyes and cutting off hands) shows that it's better to suffer temporarily on earth than to suffer eternally in hell. People can lust even with their eyes closed, of course, but Jesus says we should guard our hearts and minds, repenting of any sexual sins and sinful thoughts.

For more background on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, see the "Teaching Prep" section in Lesson 1 of this series.

**NOTE: Because of the subject matter, you may want to separate guys and girls for the discussion portions of this lesson (if you are using this curriculum in a co-ed setting).**

## **THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]**

### **TEXTS OR TWEETS**

**Send one or both of these messages to your students prior to your meeting. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.**

- How pure is your mind? Let's tackle a challenging issue this week!
- You've heard it said that you have lots of sexual freedom, right? Come hear what Jesus has to say about it.

### **PARENT EMAIL**

**Send this email to parents following the lesson to encourage them to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.**

Dear parents,

We've launched a new series comparing what our culture tells us and what Jesus tells us. Each week, students are examining a different passage in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount to discern the differences between the voices of our culture and true Jesus-centered living.

In this second lesson, we explored Matthew 5:27-30, where Jesus challenges our assumptions about sexual sin. Although students have heard from culture that they have tremendous sexual freedom, they discussed how Jesus considers any sexual sin to be extremely destructive.

Please spend a few minutes talking with your teenager about our lesson, whether at home or in the car. You can begin your conversation with one of these discussion questions:

- What types of views and attitudes does our culture have about sex? Where is this most evident?
- How do you think our culture's attitudes toward sex have impacted you?



- Why is sexual sin so addictive?
- What can help keep you from getting trapped in sexual sin?
- How would you summarize Jesus' main truth about sexual sin?

We greatly appreciate all your prayers. Thanks for letting us partner with us in ministering to teenagers!

## LESSON 2: PURITY

## 2. LESSON GUIDE

## GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

LEADER  
TIP

Preview the following video for your group: [youtu.be/3QCkBL2DfVg](https://youtu.be/3QCkBL2DfVg), or download the video file from [skitguys.com/videos/item/gods-chisel](https://skitguys.com/videos/item/gods-chisel). (Or find another video about sexual purity.)

You'll need an Internet connection and a computer or tablet to display the video for your participants. **NOTE:** The above video runs more than 11 minutes, so plan your time accordingly.

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then play the video clip. Then **ASK:**

- *Why did the man say he didn't have a "problem with lust"?*
- *For something that's often secret, why does lust cause people so much trouble?*
- *How does the hidden sin in our life get in the way of us becoming the masterpiece God wants us to be?*
- *Why does God think we need to be chiseled? Where might he need to chisel you?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *This video illustrates how we struggle to follow Jesus and become what he wants us to be. We know it's wrong to hurt people sexually, but do we realize how much our hidden sexual sins harm us? Do we realize how much they harm our relationships with Jesus and other people?*

## TEACHING POINTS

LEADER  
TIP

Use the Teaching Points to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.

Read Matthew 5:27-30 together as a group. Because this passage is so brief, consider having students read the verses several times, from different translations of the Bible.

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *We're continuing our look at Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, where he challenges many of the "truths" our culture teaches. Let's spend some time exploring Jesus' thoughts about the hidden sin of lust.*



## 1. OUR CULTURE SAYS ADULTERY IS WRONG BUT OTHER SEXUAL PRACTICES ARE ACCEPTABLE

### ASK:

- *Why did Jesus need to elaborate on Old Testament laws such as the Ten Commandments? Should God have been more detailed when he gave the Law to Moses? Why or why not?*
- *In what ways does adultery harm people and society?*
- *Does our culture teach that there are some boundaries for sexual practices, or that everything is acceptable? Explain.*
- *How would you summarize Jesus' plan for marriage and sex? Why does the world often reject that plan?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Most people today still agree that adultery is wrong. Yet we've come up with all kinds of ways to justify other sexual practices outside of marriage. Jesus has a lot to say about what our culture has told us about sex.*

## 2. JESUS SAYS LUSTFUL THOUGHTS ARE EQUIVALENT TO ADULTERY

### ASK:

- *What's your response to Jesus' words in verse 28?*
- *How do you those words directly challenge our culture's attitude toward sex?*
- *To what degree is it possible to control lustful thoughts?*
- *Why is lust such a powerful struggle?*
- *Amid so many temptations in our culture, what are some ways to keep our hearts pure?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Jesus cuts to the heart of the problem: the focus of our hearts. Adultery is destructive sexual behavior that violates the sanctity of marriage. Lust is when self-serving sexual behavior enters our thought process. It begins as internal but eventually leads to hurtful behavior. Both forms of sexual sin are degrading to ourselves and other people.*

## 3. JESUS WANTS TO TRANSFORM OUR SEXUAL THOUGHTS, NOT JUST OUR ACTIONS

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Jesus challenges us to reject any sexual sin that controls our minds, hearts, or bodies. He says the consequences are so great that we might need to take drastic measures to protect ourselves.*

### ASK:

- *According to this passage, how seriously does Jesus view sexual sins?*
- *Read verses 29-30 again. What is Jesus really saying here, especially if you think Jesus doesn't actually want us to take these steps?*
- *What temptations might you need to "cut off" in order to follow Jesus' pattern of living?*
- *The sacrifices Jesus may want you to make in this area of your life—how are they a "better" price than the consequences of going down the wrong path?*

## EXTRA DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

Ask students to form groups of two or three to discuss these questions.



PAIR  
SHARE

### ASK:

- Read Colossians 3:1-7. In what ways has Jesus offered you new life?
- Look at verse 2. When do you struggle with thinking about “the things of heaven”?
- If Jesus is in your life, how can his presence and influence be reflected in your behavior and thoughts?

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

## LIVING IT OUT

### ASK:

- In a society that promotes promiscuity, how can you remain pure? What role can Jesus play in all of this?
- What would you say to someone who has given in to lust but wants to follow a different path?
- How can following Jesus help you find forgiveness and freedom from sexual sin?
- What can you do this week to reject our culture’s views of sexuality?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *This is an intense, personal topic. If you need to talk to someone, please confide in a leader, a parent, or a friend. Remember, Jesus challenges our culture’s teachings so we can find freedom through him.*



LEADER  
TIP

Ask students to each find a quiet spot in your meeting area for a few minutes of prayer and reflection. Consider praying together as a group or asking if any students would like prayer from the rest of the group.

## SUMMARY



LEADER  
TIP

Provide a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) this lesson’s content, (2) the dialogue that took place today, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.

## FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the Scripture below.

*“Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth” (Colossians 3:2).*