

Live Different: God, Sex, and Holiness

Today's teenager lives in a hyper-sexualized culture. And while sexual immorality is an almost timeless struggle, the world we live in seems to take the glamorization of sex to unprecedented levels. Culture calls teenagers to live a life where sexual activity and sexual expression is a vital part of their identity. But the Bible challenges your students to embrace God's view of sex and sexuality, to rise above the message of culture and to instead live holy lives . . . In short, the Bible calls your students to Live Different.

Live Different teaches your students God's intent for sex and how God views sex outside of this intent. Most importantly, Live Different will help you challenge your students with God's call to live a life of holiness in a world of sexual immorality.

Small Group Outlines

Small Group Session 1

- **Session Title:** Right Place, Right Time
- **Session Purpose:** The point of the lesson is that your students grasp that God intends sex to be enjoyed between a man and a woman within the marriage relationship and that this view begins to influence their attitudes regarding sex and sexuality.
- **Focus Scripture:** Genesis 2:20-25, Hebrews 13:4, Song of Solomon 2:7
- **Session Snapshot:** Today's teenager lives in a hyper-sexualized society. And while sexual immorality has plagued humankind virtually forever, we seem to be in the midst of an age where the glamorization of sex is unprecedented. Teenagers are bombarded by messages about sex and sexual behavior. What does our culture say to teenagers about sex? Culture says sex is part of who you are, and that a teenager's sexuality is simply one facet of his or her identity. Culture says sexual expression is an important aspect of being young. But most importantly, culture says that sex between two consenting teenagers is OK, if not normal. As long as sex is not coercive, marriage, and maybe even love, doesn't really matter. The problem is that this flies in the face of how the Bible talks about sex and sexual expression. It's imperative that teenagers learn God's intention for how they are to make choices about sex and sexuality. This first lesson in *Live Different* helps students understand the biblical context for sex and its expression.

Small Group Session 2

- **Session Title:** What's At Stake
- **Session Purpose:** The point of the lesson is that your students would examine their lives for habits of sexual immorality and commit to addressing any trouble areas.
- **Main Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; 1 Peter 1:18-19
- **Session Snapshot:** Many teenagers struggle with the concept of sexual purity. And in the hyper-sexualized world they live in, it's easy to understand their struggle. It seems most teenage Christ-followers grasp the concept that sex before marriage is not what God desires for His children. But do students really understand what's at stake? Scripture speaks loud and clear about the nature of sexual sin: it affects individuals in a way that other sin does not. Sexual immorality has deeply personal consequences. And when we begin to consider that as believers we literally have God dwelling in us, the idea of sexual sin takes on a whole new meaning. As followers of Christ, your students must learn to guard themselves against engaging in sexual behavior that falls short of God's plan for them. The first lesson in *Live Different* taught students the biblical context for sex and its expression. Lesson 2 will help students understand the nature of sexual immorality and its consequences.

Small Group Session 3

- **Session Title:** The Motivation
- **Session Purpose:** The point of the lesson is that your students understand that holiness should motivate their thoughts and actions when it comes to sex and sexuality, understand what this looks like from a practical perspective, and be challenged to actually live some of these practical examples.
- **Main Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Ephesians 5:1-3
- **Session Snapshot:** In our desire to help students resist sexual temptation, we too often beat them over the head with the “just say no” message. The problem is that we do not help them understand what they should say yes to. They are left with messages aimed at avoiding the negative without highlighting the positive. Often, we don’t give our students a goal or a standard to shoot for. This is an oversight on our part, as Scripture is abundantly clear on what should be our guide when it comes to the motivation for resisting sexual immorality. The two passages you’ll study in lesson 3 speak to the fact that God’s will is for us to live holy lives. When it comes to sex, the Bible calls your students to embrace self-control with holiness as their goal. God did not call us to live like the world around us in sexual impurity. He called us to live holy lives, set apart for His purposes. Lesson 3 of *Live Different* will help you challenge your students with a goal they can strive for . . . holiness!

Small Group Session 4

- **Session Title:** Powerful Purpose
- **Session Purpose:** The point of the lesson is that your students understand the purpose of holy living and commit to boldly living lives of holiness in order to draw people to Christ.
- **Main Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:9-12
- **Session Snapshot:** There’s a very real and meaningful purpose behind the Bible’s call for your students to live lives of holiness, especially as it pertains to their attitudes toward sex and sexuality. The purpose of your students living holy lives is not to conform to some boring pattern of religious living. It’s not to make them prudish; neither is it to take away all of their fun. The purpose of God’s call to holy living is that your students set themselves apart in this world as different. But it’s more than that! The idea is that this “difference” become so significant that people become drawn to it, and in turn drawn to the source of this difference: Christ. Lesson 4 of *Live Different* challenges your students to embrace holiness so that people see the way they live and come to know Christ as a result.

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