

YEAR 2 BOOK 3

# JUNIOR 2

Student Workbook



**THEME:**

Christian Living (2)

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# Student Devotional—Light of the World

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?”

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“It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill can-

not be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify

your Father in heaven.” **(Matthew 5:13-16)**

*“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.”*

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**Romans 6:12**

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# Christian Living (2)

## Unit Themes:

### Unit 1: Spiritual Matters (1-2)

With the busy lifestyle that most of us have today, we often find ourselves not having time to quiet our spirit and to have good quality time to read the Bible and to talk with God. Prayers are often short and ritualistic. Bible reading becomes like a chore and is sometimes skipped over. In all these, we do not realize that the key to having control over our lives is to rely on God's help and grace. "For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength'" (Is 30:15).

Lessons in this section will serve as a reminder to both teachers and students about the importance of maintaining a healthy spiritual life amid all other things we have to attend to.

### Unit 2: Love Issues (3-5)

Love is something we all seek. Many people in this world never find true love. One of the many reasons could be that they do not have a pure attitude towards love relationships. Many people in the world approach love with the mentality of simply having short-term fun. Hence, they move on from one relationship to another. They cannot commit themselves to one relationship for life.

As children of God, we must be careful not to be swayed by the trends of the world. God meant for His creation to enjoy love on earth. True love can be found, and it is a blessing from God. So, when dealing with issues of dating and marriage, we must maintain purity in our relationships with members of the opposite sex. By trusting in the Lord, we can hope to find true love and a beautiful and stable marriage that is blessed by God.

### Unit 3: Culture and Media Issues (6-9)

We are bombarded daily by controversial issues. Our students are bound to have questions like the following: How should Christians view homosexuality? Can a Christian ever drink alcohol? What kinds of pop music are acceptable in the eyes of God? These are the issues that need to be thought through and resolved. The Bible does not give us a list of do's and don'ts. But, through basic principles about God's requirement for us, the Bible does provide answers to these issues.

The lessons in this section will help the students think through some of the issues thrown at them by the media and their social surrounding. It is important that the teachers deal with these topics in a sensitive way and provide guidance through prayer.

### Unit 4: Life Issues (10-12)

There are certain behavioral issues that we often take for granted or do not pay attention to. These are very basic but essential aspects of our lives as Christian: honesty, dealing with greed and anger-management. At the very least, we have to be good examples and a light to the world concerning these issues. More simply, as Christians who bear the special status as God's children, we have to glorify His name and uphold certain biblical principles.

It is important to let our students know that these issues, albeit fundamental, are important to our lives, before God and men. The lessons will give them a peek into what the Bible teaches about these issues. But ultimately, the teacher's support and guidance must be present to help the students live out these principles.

1. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thess 5:16-18)

2. "That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." (Phil 2:15)

3. "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." (1 Cor 13:4 – 8)

4. "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." (Heb 12:14)

5. "This is now the bone of my bone and the flesh of my flesh." (Gen 2:23)

6. "Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant." (Ps 135:3)

7. "See that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise . . . and do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit." (Eph 5:15, 18)

8. "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Tim 2:22)

9. "The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever." (Ps 119:160)

10. "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit." (Rom 8:5)

11. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness." (1 Tim 6:10)

12. "Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil." (Eph 4:26, 27)



## Memory Verses March, April & May



# 1 Too Busy to Pray?

*Have you ever experienced points in life when you are too weak spiritually to pray? How does that feel? Do you feel that in the things you do, you can't be sure of God's approval or guidance, simply because you didn't consult with Him? Do you feel you don't have power to shine for Him, to preach the gospel or to see His power in the church work you participate in?*



## B. Moses' Face Shone (Ex 34:27-35)

Moses was up on Mt. Sinai, receiving the Ten Commandments again, with God writing them on new stone tablets. (The first set of tablets containing the Ten Commandments was shattered when Moses threw them on the ground upon seeing how the people had made for themselves a golden calf while he was up on Mt. Sinai. See Exodus 32:19.)

↓ start

### A. Moses' Deep Prayers

Read the biblical references and answer the questions that follow.

- a. vv.15 & 16 Who and what were Moses praying for? What does that say about his character?
- b. v. 17 What do you think it means to find grace in the sight of God, and to have God know us by name?
- c. v. 18 What was Moses asking for? Do you think he was too arrogant to ask for such an (almost) impossible blessing? What does that say of his relationship with God?
- d. vv. 19-23 Describe in your own words what exactly happened here. What does this incident tell us about Moses' status in the eyes of God? Is there anyone else in the Bible who has a similar experience as Moses?
- e. Do you see God in your prayers? Even if you don't literally see God in your prayers like Moses, what do you think would be a similar experience?
- f. How can one experience being face to face with God in prayers?

- b. vv. 29-35 For how many days was Moses up on the mountain, alone with God? What is the teaching for us today, with regard to prayer?
- c. Why do you think the face of Moses shone when he came down from the mountain?
- d. Do you know of any prayerful men? Do you see their faces shining like Moses did?
- e. What would be some daily manifestations of shining faces in the lives of Christians today?



Do you sometimes feel that you do not have much to say to God in **prayer**?



## A

**P-Praise**

- a. There is a lot in our lives to give thanks to God and praise Him for. As a class, read through the whole of Psalm 103, which is a psalm of thanksgiving.
- b. As the memory verse of this lesson says, we should give thanks in everything. Is it possible to praise God even when there does not seem to be a reason to give thanks? Let us look at the verses in hymn 394 to help us answer this question.

## B

**R-Repent**

Repentance is a pre-requisite of effective prayers. That means that for our prayers to be answered by God, we need to repent of all our sins first. Let's see what the following Bible verses say about the relationship between repentance and having our prayers answered.

- a. Summarize in your own words what the verses mean: Isaiah 59: 1-3 and Psalm 66:18.
- b. Why do you think repentance is so crucial to having our prayers answered?

## C

**A-Ask**

- a. Many of us do not dare to ask God for the desires of our hearts. Actually, God is our loving Father so we can share anything and everything with Him in reverence. Let's see what the following verses tell us about asking things of God: Matthew 7:7 and Psalm 37:5.
- b. While we know that we can ask anything of God, we have to understand that God is not going to grant us everything we wish for. He will grant us what is good for us. Summarize what they are saying: James 4:2, 3 and Romans 8:32.

## D

**Y-Yield**

A very important thing to remember about prayer is that we have to submit to God's will. To ask is our duty but to grant is entirely the prerogative of God. We now look at two contrasting examples about prayer requests—one that is not in accordance with the will of God and the other, a great lesson in submission to God's will.

- a. The Israelites asked to have meat (Num 11:1-14, 31-34)
- b. Jesus Christ's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26:36-44)

1.

Why is repentance important to our prayers?



Is it true that God will grant us everything that we ask for?

2.

3.

What are the two important things to remember about prayer?



## Life Application



## Praying Hands

Part A- Read the following letter. Then discuss the questions that follow.

*My dear one,*

*As you got up this morning, I watched you, and hoped you would talk to me, even if it was just a few words, asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday.*

*But I noticed you were too busy, trying to find the right outfit to wear. When you ran around the house getting ready, I knew there would be a few minutes for you to stop and say hello, but you were too busy.*

*At one point you had to wait, fifteen minutes with nothing to do except sit in a chair. Then I saw you spring to your feet. I thought you wanted to talk to me but you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip instead.*

*I watched patiently all day long. With all your activities I guess you were too busy to say anything to me.*

*I noticed that before lunch you looked around; maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, which is why you didn't bow your head. You glanced three or four tables over and you noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they ate, but you didn't.*

*That's okay. There was still more time left, and I hoped that you*

*would talk to me yet. Then you went home and it seemed as if you had lots of things to do.*

*After a few of them were done, you turned on the TV. I don't know if you like TV or not. Just about everything goes on there and you spend a lot of time each day in front of it, not thinking about anything, just enjoying the show. I waited patiently again as you watched the TV and ate your meal, but again, you didn't talk to me.*

*Bedtime. I guess you felt too tired. After you said goodnight to your family, you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time. That's okay because you may not realize, but I'm always there for you. I've got patience, more than you will ever know. I even want to teach you how to be patient with others as well. I love you so much that I wait everyday for a nod, prayer or thought or thankful part of your heart. It is hard to have a one-sided conversation.*

*Well, you're getting up once again. And once again, I will wait, with nothing but love for you. Hoping that today you will give me some time.*

*Have a nice day!*

*Yours, \_\_\_\_\_*

# 1 Too Busy to Pray?

**Questions to think about:**

1. Who do you think the writer of the letter could be? Explain your answer.
2. Were there times in your life when you felt rejected or ignored? Describe how that felt. Do you think the feelings of the writer of the letter are the same as what you have experienced?
3. If you have not already guessed, this letter can be seen as a letter from God to His children, who often neglect to pray. Do you see similarities in your life – where you also fail on many occasions to talk to God?



4. Draft out a routine of a typical day in your life, from the time you wake up to the time you go to bed. Note down the points during the day where you make your prayers to God.

5. Share your daily routine with a partner in your class. Your partner will make suggestions to you about certain times of the day when you should pray but often fail to do so. You will do the same for the routine drafted by your friend. Here's a sample:

**Don't Forget!**

1. Your thumb is nearest to you.  
So, begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest ones to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a sweet duty.
2. The next finger is the pointing finger.  
Pray for those who teach and instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors and ministers. They need support and wisdom for pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The middle finger is the tallest finger.  
It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger.  
Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger (as any piano teacher will testify). It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger, the smallest finger of all.  
This is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others, as the Bible says, the least shall be the greatest among you. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

Period of Day	Activities	Times When I Prayed	Suggestions From My Partner/Times When I Should Have Prayed
Morning	Got out of bed and rushed to the shower, grabbed a granola bar as I rushed to catch the school bus.		
Mid-Morning	In school, a classmate said something nasty. I tried to control my anger but I failed and returned his comments with some sarcastic remarks. We ended up being mad at each other.		
Afternoon	Student's own additions		

## 2 Aims In Spirituality

What do you think are the fundamental aims of spiritual cultivation? As we've learned in the memory verse for today, one of the important things we as children of God ought to pursue is to be lights of the world in this wicked and perverse generation, and to be found blameless and harmless. We should also actively carry out the commission from the Lord Jesus to preach the gospel to all the nations and to tend to His sheep (Read Mt 28: 19, 20). That way, we can glorify God and bring benefit to those whom we come into contact with on earth. Let us now look at some verses from the Bible that tell us about spiritual growth and cultivation.



### A. Galatians 5:22-23

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### B. Ephesians 4:13-14

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### C. Colossians 1:9-10

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### D. 2 Peter 1:5-8

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## Spiritual Cultivation of the Saints of Old



### A. Moses

- a. Read Deuteronomy 34:1-12. Describe in your own words what the last moments of Moses' life were like.
- b. In what way(s) can we say that Moses was the most special of all the prophets in the history of the Israelite nation?
- c. Read Exodus 33:17-23, 34:28-33 and Numbers 12:6-8. Would you say that Moses' prayer is one of the greatest levels of intimacy with God? How can you tell?
- d. What are some of the characteristics that God saw in Moses and therefore wanted to speak to him face to face?
- e. How can we learn from Moses in our life of prayer?

### B. Daniel

- a. Read Daniel 6. Daniel 6:3,4 tell us that Daniel had an excellent spirit in him and that no fault could be found about him even by his enemies. Can you say the same about yourself? What do you think contributed to Daniel's beautiful character? What are the things one has to watch out for in one's spiritual cultivation in order to be as virtuous as Daniel?
- b. Daniel did not simply obey the king without wisdom and reverence for God. How can we tell from this chapter? What does Daniel's obedience to God over the king teach us about how we ought to conduct our lives?

### C. The Early Believers

- a. Read Acts 2:43-47 and 4:31-33. Describe in your own words the type of life that the early believers led.
- b. Read Acts 6:2-4. The apostles were the pillars of the church. What were the key elements of their lives according to these verses?

## Check For Understanding

1.

What are the fundamental aims of spiritual cultivation?



2. What are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit?

3.

Why is it important to know God's will and have wisdom and spiritual understanding? How can a child of God gain greater spiritual understanding?

4.

What are the secrets of success behind Daniel's political life?

5. If you had to summarize the lives led by the early believers in four descriptive words, what would those words be?



## MY DAILY SPIRITUAL WORKOUT

### Part A- The whole armor of God (Read Eph 6:13-18)

1. Ephesians 6:13 explains the end result if we were to take up the whole armor of God. What is this end result?
2. Identify the six components of the full armor of God.
3. For each component, discuss how you can build yourself up in that area as far as (a) family (b) school and (c) church are concerned.

### Part B- A spiritual workout

Have you seen athletes competing in a sporting event? Many of them have very strong bodies with well toned muscles. In most sporting events, stamina and endurance are needed. To become a competitive athlete, one has to go through years of training. That is not all. One has to be consistently undergoing training. It is a continuous process, not something one does sporadically. If one neglects to train for some time one will find that all his/her strength, skills and stamina would have deteriorated so much, that to get back in shape requires much effort.

It is the same with our spiritual cultivation. If we do not pray, read the Bible, or go to church services for a period of time, we will discover that we have drifted far away from God. And to get back to God may seem very difficult.



Sharing  
from brothers  
and sisters

1 I have missed many important moments in life. Sometimes, there is no turning back you miss something and you miss it forever. That moment will never come back to you. So, I've learned to make use of important times in the day. Mornings are especially important. When most people are still sleeping, when the bustle of life hasn't quite kicked in yet, I make it my prayer time. To many people, it's a chore. But for me, it's a special moment, waking up early every morning to meet with my best friend. It's an appointment I set for myself with God. I've been doing this for years since my first year in college and I think morning prayers really help me put things in perspective and give me strength to handle all that come my way during the day.

2 I always wonder how some people can spend such a long time in the morning showering and getting dressed. It is as if smelling and looking good are more important than asking God to be part of your life for the day. To me, it is absolutely important that I ask God to participate in all my activities for the day. I can spend my entire morning getting dressed or eating a great breakfast. But, if I do not have God's presence with me for the day, I don't think I can have a good day, no matter how good I smell or how well I'm dressed.



3 I have to set aside quiet time during the day just for God and myself. For me, I find that time in the evening is the best time. I use it to read the Bible, and talk to God about all the issues of the day and things that are going on in my life. Before I began this routine, I usually wasted these early evening hours doing nothing important. So now before dinner, and before I get back to my books, I make sure I have a good session with God and read His words first. This has proven to be most helpful for me to reflect upon my weaknesses and transgressions. I find myself growing spiritually with this daily communion with God.

4 I find that nighttime works best for me. Usually, I read the Bible for fifteen to twenty minutes. Then I pray and talk to God about what went on during the day and also my plans for the next day. It's a time when it's usually not too noisy, so I find that I can concentrate better and talk more deeply to God. I also use this time to meditate on how to apply God's words to what is happening in my life.

5 For half a year, I lived in a place where there are no church members or church. The first two weeks were okay, as I still read the Bible and prayed on my own. I listened to sermon tapes that I had brought with me. But soon, I realized how weak I had become. I no longer wanted to keep the Sabbath. Prayers got shorter and shorter. Then I realized the importance of having spiritual support through fellowship with brothers and sisters. I made it a point to stay in touch with church members and now I try not to miss church services, even though it is far away. Being part of some form of church work is also a good way to keep in close communion with brothers and sisters.

Based on the sharing by the brothers and sisters, identify some of the important factors that affect our spiritual health. If you have more ideas, include them in your spiritual cultivation routine below. When you write your spiritual cultivation routine, state how you want to do it, what activities you want to include and when you want to carry out those activities.

Do the people of God date?

A

Isaac and Rebekah (Gen 24)



B

Jacob and Rachel (Gen 29)



- a Who were the match-makers for Isaac and Rebekah?
- b Where could we see God's guidance during this process?
- c How can we tell that Rebekah is a good woman?
- d What do you understand about Isaac's character from other events in Genesis?
- e Do you think his personality had a lot to do with his acceptance of a wife whom he had never met before, whom his father had chosen for him? What else is important in such a situation? Explain your answer.

- a What is one main difference between how Jacob and Isaac met their wives?
- b What was Jacob's plan of action when he decided that he wanted to marry Rachel?
- c How is his plan of action different from the conventional way of dating as we understand today?
- d A lot of times, what is unsaid can give us clues to understanding a situation. From the case of the mix up on Jacob's wedding night, what can we infer about the relationship between Jacob and Rachel (specifically, how close the two of them were before marriage)?
- e Jacob's love for Rachel lasted until she died. How is this love different from the love of many dating relationships that you know of today?



Principles in Dealing With the Opposite Sex

A. 2 Samuel 13:1-19

- a What were the reasons Amnon was so attracted to Tamar?
- b How can we tell that Amnon's feelings for Tamar were not true love?

B. 1 Corinthians 6:9

- a Among young people of the world today, premarital sex is very common. What does the Bible say about fornicators?
- b When there is attraction and infatuation between two people, physical closeness is often desired. How can we maintain purity in such a situation?



As children of God, we must hold our emotions in check, and not pursue every single attraction we may feel for someone of the opposite sex. Attractions come and go, but we have to preserve our heart for the one person with whom we will spend the rest of our lives with.



C. 2 Corinthians 6:14

The Bible teaches us many things. The fundamental principle in our relationship with people is love. How can one practice responsible love in issues of dating and emotions?



D. 1 John 4:11



In the case of Amnon, we have seen how destructive infatuations can get. What is the principle stated in this verse about how we should look for our potential spouse?

What does it mean to be in communion with darkness?

Check For Understanding

1.

Look up John 13:34, 35. What does it say?

In what ways were Isaac and Jacob's paths to marriage different and in what ways were they similar?



2.

Why is infatuation sometimes a dangerous thing?

3.

What is the guiding principle from the Bible that we should apply to all aspects of our lives?

4.

How can we practice that principle in issues dealing with our emotions?



## To Date or **Not** to Date



Do you sometimes feel that you want to have a girlfriend/boyfriend? What are the reasons? Here are a few stories about teenagers and their dating experiences. For each story, discuss if you think their motives for dating were correct or healthy. What do you think the consequences will be if one plunges into a relationship based on the motivations described in the stories? Would you do the same for yourself?

1 Jason hung out a lot with a group of friends who really knew how to add fun to their lives. They always had activities after school and on weekends. One thing Jason noticed that separated him from his friends was that they all had girlfriends. Most of the time when they hung out, the girls came along. Jason always felt awkward being the only “bachelor” in the gang. He decided that he should try to get himself a girlfriend as soon as possible. Although it seemed awkward, Jason started to chat with girls more at school. He succeeded in finding a girlfriend. However, his girlfriend did not like to hang out with his friends at all. They often had fights over where to go, who to hang out with, and what to do. Jason started to realize that maintaining a relationship with someone was harder than he thought. It wasn’t as simple as just having a girlfriend. He began to regret having a girlfriend, because he missed his freedom when he was single. But he did not know how to tell her.

notes

2 Ann is a very introverted girl. She is not really pretty or popular. She has always thought of herself as being “plain”. When she saw that many of the girls in her school had guys, she wished she were more outgoing, and prettier, because having a boyfriend seemed like a really cool thing. If she had a boyfriend, she would definitely be less lonely, she thought. Perhaps then, she would also have envious eyes staring at her.

notes

3 Growing up, Rob has always been a “goody-two-shoes”. He always obeyed his parents. In the eyes of his elders, he’s the perfect boy. In the eyes of his friends, he’s the nicest person around. His only vice seems to be that he’s too conservative and even too strict with himself. After entering high school, Rob gradually started to feel tired of being “the good boy”. He wanted to be more “normal”, to be more like his friends at school. He decided that he would try many of the things that other teenagers were doing. Among the first few items on his list was to try dating. After all, what’s wrong with asking girls out and trying to find a soul mate if a nice girl came along?

notes

- What are the motivations or attitudes of people who do not revere God when it comes to dating?
- What are some of the harmful consequences of those kinds of attitudes?
- What should be the right attitude towards dating one that is acceptable in the sight of God?

## Is there a right age to start dating?

In principle, a person who is ready to date is one who is prepared and determined to commit his/her life to someone forever (i.e. two become one), living according to biblical teachings. Since we have established that dating should be for the purpose of marriage, it makes sense then that we should start dating only when we're ready for marriage. There is not a right age to start dating, but there are factors to take into serious consideration:



## Is it okay to put off dating?

Being ready to date does not mean we should plunge into dating right away. In fact, there are people who are ready for dating who choose to defer this stage of life because they want to pursue other more important things. Here are two real life stories of youths in church who did just that:

### Story 1

Sister W. is the dream of many brothers. Not only is she physically attractive, she attends a very prestigious college and is very fervent in serving God in church. All throughout her high school years and college, there were guys who tried to ask her out. When she was in her final year in college, she started to become closer friends with one brother whom she had known for many years. Although they are not from the same locality, they email each other very often. Somehow, she could sense that the brother is interested in her. She liked that brother too, for he is a very exemplary youth in church and has a good job.

One day, the brother asked whether she would like to be his girlfriend. She was put in a serious dilemma. Although she was just a year away from graduation, she felt that it was still too early for her to be sure that this brother is the one that she would really like to marry. More importantly, she wanted to go on to graduate school. She knew that she would not be able to juggle fulfilling her potential, serving God in church and handling a relationship at the same time. After all, a relationship is not something trivial; she wanted to make sure time and effort are put in to make the relationship an edifying one for both people.

Although it seemed to run contrary to her feelings, she turned the brother down. She decided to entrust this matter into God's hands and she believes that God will take care of her marriage when the time is right.



### Story 2

When brother L. graduated from college and found a well paying job, he started getting a lot of attention from sisters, parents and even more elderly members in church. Obviously, everyone thought he was ready to get married! In his mind, he had thought so too. He had always loved kids and he had secretly wished to be married young so that he could have his own kids.

However, as he started getting all this attention, he began considering what dating and marriage really meant. Having just started his career, he began to realize that juggling work and service to God in church was already tough. He didn't need to have an extra commitment at this stage. Therefore he made up his mind that he would rather wait a few more years before considering dating or marriage.

# 4 Why Stay Pure?

## Part 1 Be Separate From the World

We live in a very corrupt world today. We may not see all of the evil that is happening around us, partly because a lot of evil that is done is done secretly. Perhaps, in our immediate circle of friends and relatives, we do not see this phenomenon; but there are many perverse and immoral things that go on in the world today. 2 Timothy 3:15 tells us that in the last days, many people will be unholy...without self control...lovers of pleasure.

One area where young people find it hardest to stay pure is sexual relationships. Pre marital sex is so common today that sometimes, it even seems like an embarrassment to admit to our friends that we are virgins! With married people, extra marital affairs are commonplace. One night stands are not big deals. As God's children, do we realize that we have a very special position on earth today? Do we realize that we are a separate people, different from the rest of the world? Hence, in our moral standards, we have to be separate from the rest of the world too.



a. Noah (Gen 6:1-8)

b. Abraham (Gen 12:1-3)

c. The Israelite Nation (Ex 8:22, 23; Deut 7:6-14; cf 1 Pet 2:9)

d. Chosen People Under the New Testament (1 Cor 6:19, 20; 1 Cor 6:9, 10)

**Be Pure!**

**Shine  
for  
Jesus!**

Guidelines For Shunning Impurity



The Bible gives us a lot of encouragement about how we can stay pure and shun impurity. The following verses are but a small selection. For each of them, write how we can keep pure by abiding by these words of God.

Ps 119:11- Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Job 31:1- I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?

1 Corinthians 10:12- Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

James 4:7- Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Galatians 5:16, 17- Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

2 Timothy 2:22- Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.



1.

In Deuteronomy 7:6-14, God told the Israelites that they were a special, chosen race and that they would be blessed. But this promise is conditional. What did the Israelites have to do in order to receive the promise of blessings?

2.

In 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10, who are the people that are highlighted as those who cannot inherit the kingdom of God?

3.

What is the guiding principle from the Bible that we should apply to all aspects of our life?

4.

What pact (resolution) did Job make with his eyes (Job 31:1)?

5.

What is the simple advice James gives regarding fighting temptations/evil in James 4:7?

Life Application



Part A-

## Keeping ourselves pure

Many things are often easier said than done. The same goes for keeping ourselves pure. When we are not faced with the temptation, of course it is easy to stay pure. But when physically confronted with the opportunity to sin, we often find out (too late) that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Hence, it is important that we give no place to the devil or to ourselves to commit sin. Before we are even faced with the situation, we need to be prepared for possible scenarios where temptation can be so great that we fall.

Presented here are a few words of wisdom from brothers and sisters who kept themselves pure while they were dating. Read what they have to say, and then discuss other practical ways we can avoid committing sins of impurity.

## 4 Why Stay Pure?



### Case 1

I was glad that K. and I were in a long distance relationship before we got married. Being physically apart meant that we did not face the temptation to get too close physically. Sister L.

### Case 2

I was always under the impression that it's the guys who make the first move. So, I resolved not to be alone with my girlfriend in an enclosed space. We made it a point that all our dates had to be in public places. Brother T.

### Case 3

I guess you can consider me old-fashioned but I never even held her hands until after we were married. Our dates consisted of very clean activities like watching TV with my family members, eating at restaurants or hanging out with a whole bunch of church youths. We never dated in private we were always in public spaces. Public activities did not stop us from getting to know each other better. In fact, the best way to know a person is how she behaves with other people. Brother C.

### Case 4

Guys, I have been told, are weak visually. I make sure that I am always dressed modestly so I do not give way to the devil to create any form of temptation for any brother. Sister A.

### Case 5

I believe that keeping pure is a matter of self respect. I respect myself enough to know that I want to keep God's word and be a pure bride to my husband when we get married. I expect the same of my future husband. Hence, I made a rule in my life that I will not engage in pre marital sex, no matter how sure I am that I will be marrying the guy I'm dating. Sister S.

NOT TOO CLOSE,  
PLEASE!

Date in public places!

"I think he really  
respects me!"

Flee from lusts!

Be a pure bride!

Stay away from  
temptations!



# What do we want to **achieve** for



God?



*I, would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.*

*I would be friend, of all the foe, the friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would look up, and laugh and love and lift.*

S E X U A L \* P U R I T Y \* C O M M I T M E N T !

Because my body is a **temple** of the **Holy Spirit**,  
I commit to stay free from any sexual activity, including petting as well as intercourse, until the day I get married. Thank you, Jesus, for the **power** to stay **pure** and holy every day.

Singed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S !



## Why do we marry?



Read Genesis 2:18-24

- a. God first instituted marriage for the sake of mankind. How do we know that marriage was instituted for the good of man?
- b. What is marriage supposed to do for the man?
- c. Read also Genesis 1:27, 28. What is another purpose of marriage?
- d. Why was it significant that Eve was created out of the rib-bone of Adam, and not from other parts of his body, such as the head or the arms or the legs?
- e. Does verse 24 mean that when we get married, we should simply cut ourselves off from our parents? If not, what does it mean?
- f. When do you think a person is old enough to “leave his father and mother”?

Read Songs 8:6, 7;  
Ephesians 5:22-23

- a. How is marriage similar to the relationship between Christ and the church?

## What should we look for in a spouse?

Besides marrying in the Lord, having the same faith and serving God together in the church, there are five qualities that are absolutely necessary for a marriage to be great.

**G** for Good communication  
**R** for Real partnership  
**E** for Effort  
**A** for Adaptability  
**T** for Total Commitment



In addition both people need to pray together daily, read the Bible and attend church services!



1.

Why did God institute marriage?

2.

What did Adam say when he first saw Eve? What is the significance of his words?

3.

In what ways is the role of the husband to the wife like the role of Christ to the church?

4.

What are some important qualities one should (a) look for in a spouse (b) possess before one considers marriage?

## Life Application



## Love Forever?

Read Exodus 20:14,17; Matthew 19:8, 9; Hebrews 13:4

1. *Committing adultery is a sin God abhors and it is a violation of the 10 commandments. From this, we can understand how important it is that a person stays faithful to his spouse. Marriage is something to be taken seriously. To most people today, it is better for a couple to break-up than for two people to stay together in an unhappy marriage. What do you think are the implications of such an attitude?*

Read Matthew 19:6.

1. *Why is the Lord's teaching about marriage for life important for the family and society as a whole today?*
2. *Since marriage is for life, what are the implications for single Christians concerning the way they conduct themselves before marriage, especially with regard to interaction with members of the opposite sex?*

# Till Death Us Do Part



**Many lovers vow to be together forever, in life and in death, but I don't believe I've heard of anyone whose loyalty and devotion matched that of Mrs. Isidor Straus. The year was 1912. Mrs. Straus and her husband were passengers on the Titanic during its fateful voyage. Not many women went down with the ship, but Mrs. Straus was one of the few women who did not survive for one simple reason: She could not bear to leave her husband. This is how Mabel Bird, Mrs. Straus' maid, who survived the disaster, told the story after she was rescued:**

When the Titanic began to sink, panicked women and children were the first ones loaded into lifeboats. Mr. and Mrs. Straus were calm and comforting to the passengers, and helped many of them into the boats.

If it had not been for them, Mabel stated, "I would have drowned. I was in the fourth or fifth lifeboat. Mrs. Straus made me get into the boat, and put some heavy wraps on me."

Then, Mr. Straus begged his wife to get into the lifeboat with her maid and the others. Mrs. Straus started to get in. She had one foot on the gunwale, but then suddenly, she changed her mind, turned away and stepped back onto the sinking ship.

Please, dear, get into the boat! her husband pleaded.

Mrs. Straus looked deep into the eyes of the man with whom she'd spent most of her life, the man who had been her best friend, her heart's true companion and always a comfort to her soul. She grabbed his arm and drew his trembling body close to hers.

No, Mrs. Straus is said to have replied defiantly. I will not get into the boat. We have been together through a great many years. We are old now. I will not leave you. Where you go, I will go.

And that is where they were last seen, standing arm in arm on the deck, this devoted wife clinging courageously to her husband, this loving husband clinging protectively to his wife, as the ship sank. Together forever.

## Questions to think about:

1. How many people today would do the same?
2. Do you think what Mrs. Straus did was in accordance with the spirit of Jesus Christ's words in Mark 10:9 "Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate"?
3. What do you think is the secret of a long-lasting relationship?

**Great Love!**



## Music to Praise God



## Music for Specific Purposes

Read the following verses aloud:

Psalm 69:30, 31  
 Psalm 71:22, 23  
 Psalm 135:3  
 Psalm 147:1  
 Exodus 15:1 22  
 Luke 1:46 55

Questions to consider:

- a. Most of the psalms listed above involve singing to the Lord in praise. Why is it important to sing praises to God?
- b. Music can move one to tears. Music can inspire fighting spirits. Music can create the atmosphere suited to the occasion. The power of music is great. Has music ever helped you in your faith? How?

In the Bible, there are also instances where music played a special role in helping the biblical characters. Let's take a look at two of these examples. The questions will help you comprehend the passages:

1 Samuel 16:14 23

a. Why did Saul need David to play the harp?

b. What types of music do you think David played for Saul? Why?

c. Do you think the type of music produced has anything to do with the player of the instrument and/or the composer of the music? What kinds of music do you think David played? (It is possible to infer this from the lifestyle he led.)

2 Chronicles 20:1 26

a. What was Jehoshaphat's first reaction when he heard the news that the armies of the Moabites and Ammonites were advancing against his people?

b. What did the prophet Jahaziel (v.14) tell the people?

c. What was the strategy of warfare that Jehoshaphat employed (vv. 21, 22)? What advantage is there to such a strategy?

d. What was the outcome of the war?



1.

Why did Miriam sing and what did she sing about after crossing the Red Sea?



2.

What is the content of Mary's song of praise to God?

3.

What effect did the music of David have on Saul's spirit?

4.

What was so special about the war strategy employed by Jehoshaphat in the battle against the Moabites and Ammonites?



## Life Application



## Guidelines in choosing Music

As Christians, we must be very selective about what types of music we listen to. Revelation 18:4 says, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues." This call to come out of the world entails more than just not actively participating in sinful deeds. It is also a call to be separate from the people of the world in terms of our lifestyle. The types of music we listen to are certainly part of our lifestyle.

Romans 12:2 says "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Hence, it is of utmost importance that we consider our choices of music.

Today, we are bombarded with all sorts of different music—classical, rock, country, hip hop etc. We know that music can affect our moods and in the long run, even our attitudes and behavior. Music has been known to generate certain moods. Can you think of some examples?

Be filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18).

On top of the various different types of music, the lyrics are also an important factor. Words by themselves are very powerful, able to motivate people in different directions. That is why the news media are such an important part of propaganda. When words are combined with music, the power is far greater. We cannot but be aware and careful about what we listen to!

Now, in groups of three, work out a list of guidelines that you would draft for yourself and your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ concerning the types of music to avoid. For each of the guidelines, try to come up with at least one Bible verse to support your point. If you cannot find a verse, be prepared to explain why you set that guideline. You may want to use the chart given in the Teacher's Guide for reference.



### Partying is risky business!

Read Proverbs 20:1 and 23:30–35.

Have you ever seen someone drunk? Perhaps you have seen it on TV or in the movies. What are some of the things people who are drunk do that are not pretty, and may even cause them deep regret later?

How are some of these things you have just listed similar to what is described in Proverbs 23:30–35?

What do these verses tell you about the risks to our spiritual life if we drink?

### Drunkenness leads to sin!

#### Noah (Gen 9:20–24)

- a. What do you think caused Noah to drink?
- b. Are there similar situations today that may induce one to drink, often too much?

#### Lot (Gen 19:30–36)

- a. Do you think the tragedy of incest in this case could have been avoided? How so?
- b. Lot did not learn from his mistake the first night. What lessons can we learn from his folly?

#### King Belshazzar (Dan 5:1–4)

- a. Under the circumstances of an imperial feast, do you think the king could have avoided drinking?
- b. What could he have done instead of getting himself drunk?
- c. What sins did he commit when he was tipsy?
- d. What does this case tell us about the dangers of drinking?



### Check For Understanding



1.

What are some of the things that a drunken man would do, as depicted in Proverbs 23:30–35?

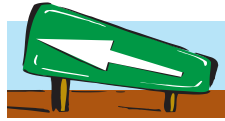
What did Noah, Lot and Belshazzar do respectively, under the influence of alcohol?

2.

3.

Why do you think Proverbs 23:31 tells us not to even look at the wine when it sparkles red in the cup – what are some of the hidden dangers of alcohol?

Part A: Saying No



Some may want to argue that certain activities in and of themselves are harmless. For instance, we know that dancing can be a good form of exercise and wine is not necessarily something harmful to the body. Wine used in cooking can add flavor to the dishes. Wine has also been used for medicinal purposes (e.g. 1 Tim 5:23). So why do we need to guard ourselves against these types of activities? We can answer this question from a few angles. Read the following few verses, and discuss the reasons why we should say "no" to activities such as drinking, smoking and taking drugs.

1 Cor 6:12

1 Cor 10:23

1

2

1 Cor 8:8, 9, 13

1 Cor 6:19, 20

3

4

Part C: Cigarettes, Drugs and Alcohol

- In this activity, you will need to
- come up with a scenario where the temptation to try cigarettes, drugs or alcohol arises,
  - enact the scenario in the form of a very short sketch detailing how one can be enticed into trying one of the above mentioned substances,
  - enact also how one can successfully shun these temptations and say "no".

Empty rectangular box for scenario enactment.

# What is pornography



## Was there pornography during biblical times?

### Matthew 5:27–29

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”

### Matthew 18:9

“And, if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.”

From these verses, we know that the requirement of the Lord is that we keep our eyes pure. What we see can affect what we think in our hearts and minds. Hence, it is important to control ourselves regarding what we see so as to preserve our whole body in purity.



## Why is pornography a sin?

### Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”

### Psalm 139:23, 24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

### Ecclesiastes 11:9

“Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these, God will bring you into judgment.”

### Ecclesiastes 12:14

“For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

## Check For Understanding

1.

Why is pornography a sin?



2.

What does the Lord Jesus mean when He says we should pluck out our eye if that eye causes us to sin?

3.

The Bible says that we can walk in the ways of our hearts, but what is the consequence that we have to bear in mind?



# Part A: God Wants Us to Stay Pure



Hebrews 12:7 says, "If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?" When we do wrong, it is a great blessing if God punishes us. That's how we know we have done something wrong and probably would have a strong impression on our minds never to do it again. The following testimonies by some brothers and sisters illustrate the importance of keeping away from pornography. God wants us to be pure in every way.

## Testimony 1

Sister W was invited by some friends to go to a movie. When she asked about the name of the movie, she knew that it was one with a lot of explicit sexual scenes. But, she did not want to disappoint her friends. She thought it would be all right since it is just a movie. It is more important that she join in the activities of her friends or else they might think she's too "holy" and not include her in their future activities. However, that is not the way God thinks. The next morning, when she got out of bed and looked into the mirror, she realized that both her eyes had become bloated and puffed up, and they were very red. Immediately, she knew that it was a punishment from God. She cried and prayed desperately. It was not until one week later that her eyes returned to normal. She knew for sure what God's message was to her.

## Testimony 2

Sister P's experience was very similar to sis W's. Instead of a movie, she was actually at a party where people were dancing and drinking heavily. She had never thought going to such parties was wrong. She always believed that as long as she did not get drunk and did not participate in any physical "activities" with anyone, it was fine. That night, the party went really wild. Towards the end of the party, many people were so drunk that they lost all inhibitions and started getting really physically intimate with their partners or members of the opposite sex that they had "picked up" at the party. Although sister P felt at that time that she should leave the party right away, she did not. Of course, she did not join the people in their physical intimacy, but still, the damage was done. The next day, when she woke up, she saw that her eyes were all red and puffy. No matter what medication or eye cream she tried, it was of no use. She knew then that it was God's chastisement. She repented and wept bitterly before God. Thank God, she recovered within a few days. But that lesson stuck with her until today, and she realized that many of the parties of gentiles are indeed activities that we, as children of God, should never attend.

## Testimony 3

Brother L is an exemplary youth in his local church. He received the Holy Spirit when he was in elementary school. Even when he was only in the junior class, he was often scheduled to lead hymns and even help out with the RE classes of the younger children. In his first year of college, he attended the NYTS. There, during one of the prayers, he discovered that he could no longer pray in tongues. In the subsequent prayers, he tried and tried, and he realized one alarming fact: The Holy Spirit had left him! He was so troubled but he didn't want anyone to know. This is because he knew why the Holy Spirit had left him. Actually, he had been surfing certain websites containing pornographic pictures for quite some time. Each time, he would feel very guilty and prayed for forgiveness from God. He would even pray in tongues to make sure the Holy Spirit had not left him. But, he was not able to resist the temptation and he continued in these activities for a few months. When the Holy Spirit left him, it was then that he realized that he had sinned terribly before God. As he listened to the words of God through the lessons taught at the NYTS, he decided that he had to confess and pray to God to give him the Holy Spirit again. He took up the courage and told a pastor about it. The pastor told him that he must truly repent and never do it again. During that NYTS, brother L always knelt in the first row during the prayers for the Holy Spirit. He also fasted and prayed during meal times. At the end of that NYTS, he still did not receive the Holy Spirit. The pastor told him that he must never give up repenting.



Questions to think about after reading the previous testimonies:

The testimonies give us three types of pornography related activities that we should flee from. What are some other related activities that you can think of that we should totally abstain from?



We know that God watches everything we do, and knows everything we are thinking about. Do you think being chastised by God like in the cases we just read is better than having nothing bad happen to us when we sin? Discuss your reasons.

What are the three most important lessons for you from these testimonies in terms of how to say "no" either to friends or to yourself?

If you have heard of similar cases, share the testimony (anonymously, of course) with the rest of the class.



## Part B: Staying away from impurity

### Temptation:

A friend tells me about a "hot" website and asks if I'd like to go over to his house to view the site together.

How I could reply:

### Temptation:

Think of a situation where I need to learn to say no to myself (i.e. things I want to try when I am bored).

How I could reply:

### Temptation:

Think of a situation where I need to stay away from (i.e. walking past a magazine stall).

How I could reply:

### Be proactive!

How can I stay away from temptations?  
What are some healthy things I can do?



### A. The Different Views

- a. Homosexuality is a sin before God.
- b. Homosexuality is the result of biological and genetic make-up, so homosexuals really cannot help themselves and should therefore be accepted as they are.
- c. Homosexuality is the result of an overly liberated society where anything goes and judgments are simply politically incorrect, so we should refrain from judging anyone.
- d. Homosexuality is a personal choice.

### B. What The Bible Says

#### Genesis 19:1–11

1. What was the state of morality in the city of Sodom at that time?
2. What did the men in the city try to do when the two angels of God visited Lot's house?
3. What was the end of this depraved city (ref Gen 18:17–20, 19:24, 25)?
4. Do you see a resemblance between the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and the world that we live in today? Does the ending of Sodom serve as a warning to us today?

#### Leviticus 18:22, 20:13

1. Homosexuality is not a phenomenon of modern society only. As we can see, in the period of the Old Testament there were already warnings from God against this sin. What does this tell us about the laws of God across the ages?
2. Do you think people in the Old Testament thought of explanations to justify the act of homosexuality? What types of justification do you think they used? Are those excuses similar to those we hear today?

#### Judges 19:22–29

1. What are some of the atrocious and barbaric acts that are recorded in this section?
2. We can see that the people were living in a very depraved generation. Do you see any similarities between that period and our world today?
3. Read Judges 21:25 – “In those days, there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” What does this verse and the section you have just read tell you about the necessity of obeying God's word in a depraved generation?
4. As a child of God, what do you think your role is in this end-time where almost everyone does what is right in his own eyes?

#### 1 Corinthians 6:9

1. During the time of apostle Paul, homosexuality was obviously something in existence. What does Paul say about homosexuality?
2. From the Old Testament to the apostolic times, God's word on homosexuality has never changed. What does it say about God's stand on this issue in our days?

Notes:



# C. Overcoming Our Weaknesses Through Obedience



### Read Job 1:9–2:10

1. What was the problem with Job, according to the devil's accusations before God?
2. When Job lost everything he had, including his own children, he was surely entitled to question and curse God. But he did not. What did he say instead?
3. Job left for us a great example of how one can resist physical urges and choose to stand by God, thereby defeating the very ploy of the devil. Explain in your own words how Job's case illustrates for us the definition of obedience.

### Read Matthew 4:1–4

1. When did the devil come up with the first temptation for the Lord Jesus?
2. How was the Lord Jesus at His weakest point physically at that time?
3. The devil says, "If you are the Son of God..." – do you think the Lord Jesus has the power to turn the stones into bread? Do you think the Lord Jesus has a good reason to do so, if He really did? Explain your answer.
4. The Lord Jesus had a good reason physically to turn the stones into bread – He was hungry after having fasted forty days and nights. He also had the power to do so – He was God Himself! Yet, He set for us an example of how to resist all physical reasons. What does this say about our approach towards the issue of homosexuality and even more generally, the issue of sexual immorality?

### Notes:

### Check For Understanding

1.

What types of sins were in existent in Sodom and Gomorrah?



2.

What was the "principle" guiding the lives of the people during the time of the judges? What was wrong with that "principle"?

3.

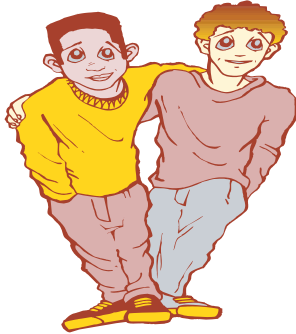
Paraphrase the content of these verses: Leviticus 18:22, 20:13.

4.

What does 1 Corinthians 6:9 say about the end of homosexuals?



The following confession comes from a homosexual who turned down a church member's invitation to come to church. His name has of course been changed. He did not want to turn to God or the church because he believes that the church does not understand the position of people like him. Read his story and then write a short passage of encouragement to him. Then, share with your classmates about how we can best approach people who are homosexuals.



**What is your advice and response?**

### Kevin's story:

I realized that I was a homosexual when I was 12. Actually, prior to that, teachers had talked to my mom telling her that I seemed to get along much better with girls at school than with the boys. I am more sensitive to feelings and emotional things. I feel that I can talk to girls like I am one of them; I understand their emotional upheavals and I go through moods like them too, sometimes.

My mother and sister accepted me as I am. They have always doted on me, being the youngest. All these years, since I declared myself a homosexual at 12, they have never treated me any worse. I really appreciate that .... Some people say it's something in the genes. I really don't know. I just know that I am more attracted to guys than I am to girls. Maybe it's

because my father left my mom when I was only 3, so I grew up with my mom, sister and my aunts. There was a lot of feminine influence as I was growing up. But, I would say that it's also something I have sort of chosen. It's the easier way for me. I can't really visualize myself doing otherwise. It's a mixture of genetics and environment, I believe.

Church ... do you really believe that what the Bible says about homosexuals is to be taken literally? Then, I don't think I can ever become a Christian, because I am what I am and I will never be anything else.

### My advice:

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# Honesty in...



## ...Speech (Eph 4:15)

What does it really mean to be speaking the truth with love? Does that mean we should indiscreetly tell everyone everything there has to be said? Would that be considered a loving act?

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## ...Our Hearts (Prov 4:23; Rom 12:3)

- What does it mean to keep one's heart with all diligence?
- Why is "keeping one's heart" so important?
- Do you think honesty is one important aspect of "keeping one's heart"?
- Why is honesty important to the "issues of life"?
- Why is it important for us to be honest with ourselves (ref Rom 12:3)?
- What does it mean to be honest with ourselves with regard to our faith and spiritual life?

## ...Money. Things. Goods (Ex 20:16, 17)

- What does it mean not to bear false witness?
- The 9th commandment (to be truthful in our words) is often lumped together with the 10th (to not covet) as one teaching. What do you think is the relationship between honesty and covetousness?
- Read: "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Tim 6:9, 10). Do you think greed for money and honesty can co-exist? What are some situations where a person's greed for money might have caused him to be dishonest?
- Can you think of a biblical character whose greed for money led him or her to lie?





Honesty and greed often cannot co-exist. Dishonesty often leads to grave consequences – to others and to oneself. We shall now take a look at two case studies from the Bible where the downfall of the characters stemmed from their greed and dishonesty.



### Jezebel Frames Naboth

(1 Kgs 21:1-25)

- a. Did Ahab need an extra vineyard?
- b. Why did he want to have another vineyard?
- c. What was the plan that Jezebel came up with to help Ahab secure Naboth's vineyard?
- d. What was God's reaction to the plan of Jezebel?
- e. What do the endings of Jezebel and Ahab tell you about the gravity of their sins?

1

### Judas Iscariot (Jn 13:21-30)

- a. At the last supper, the Lord Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. He did not exclude Judas, whom He knew was going to betray Him. If you were Judas, facing your master who stooped down to wash your feet, what would your feelings be then?
- b. Do you think Judas had a chance to turn from his evil plan to betray the Lord Jesus at that moment? Would the Lord Jesus have forgiven him? What would have been the reaction of the other disciples?
- c. If Judas had confessed and changed his mind, God would still have fulfilled salvation through another way. Why do you think Judas caused himself to become the one who would go down in history as the betrayer of Jesus Christ?
- d. What lessons does the decision of Judas have for you?

2

### Check For Understanding



1.

In what ways do we have to be honest?

What does it mean to "speak the truth in love" (Eph 4:15)?

2.

3.

What is the relationship between greed/covetousness and honesty?

What was the end like for those people who tried to gain through dishonesty, like Jezebel and Judas?

4.



1. What would you do if the cashier at a department store gave you extra change?
2. What are the factors you consider when making a decision like that?
3. Do you think the amount matters? If it is just a quarter, maybe you would keep it. But if it is a few dollars or more what would you do?
4. What do you think are the potential repercussions/implications of your decision?

## More Than A Dime

Several years ago, a pastor moved to Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him ten cents too much change.

As he considered what to do, there alternately appeared to him little angelic figures sitting on his shoulders and whispering instructions into his ears. One said, "You had better give the dime back. It would be wrong to keep it."

On the other shoulder, a voice said, "Oh forget it. It's just ten cents. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company already gets too much fare. With the millions they collect everyday, they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the front door, and handing the driver the dime, he said, "Here. You handed me too much change."

The driver replied, "Aren't you the new pastor in town? I have been thinking lately about going to church somewhere. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you ten cents too much change."

When the pastor stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, and held on, and said, "O God, I almost sold Your Son for ten cents."

(By Alan Johnson, "Romans – The Freedom Letter")

### Questions to Think About...

1. After reading this story, do you think your responses to the questions in the discussion earlier would be different now? Why?
2. With respect to the two angels, whose opinion do you agree with more? Why?
3. Imagine a different scenario: If the driver is not someone who was out testing the pastor, do you think your answer to the second question would be different? Why?
4. Can you think of other scenarios where honesty can be so crucial? In groups of two or three, come up with situations where honesty is very important. Explain the situation and the factors needed for consideration.



In the history of mankind, we have heard many stories of people who lost their lives or paid a high price as a result of greed. The Bible also has many examples of such people.



### Lot (Gen 13:5–18, 18:20, 19:23–26)

- Do you think Lot was greedy and selfish when he chose the lands for himself?
- What were some factors he neglected to consider as he tried to satisfy his greed and ambition for better lands?
- What reasons were there for Lot to regret his choice?



### Gehazi (2 Kgs 5:5–27)

- Why do you think Elisha turned down the offer of gifts from Naaman?
- What was Gehazi's rationale for wanting to have those gifts? Do you think those reasons are valid?
- What was the result of Gehazi's lie and greed?

### Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–11)

- What did Ananias and Sapphira do?
- Did the apostles make it compulsory for the believers to offer all they had?
- Why do you think Ananias and Sapphira lied? Was there a need to?

### Judas Iscariot (Mt 26:14–16, Acts 1:18–20)

- For how much did Judas sell the Lord Jesus?
- Was that a large sum of money, worthy of such a great sin?
- What do you think prompted Judas to do such a foolish act?
- How did Judas spend the money?
- What was the end of Judas like?





**a. Proverbs 1:10–19**

1. What are some of the things a greedy person might do?
2. What is his end likely to be?

**b. Proverbs 15:27**

1. What troubles do you think a greedy person will bring to his household?
2. In what ways is greed related to bribes?

**c. Proverbs 21:25, 26**

1. Is a lazy man often a greedy man?
2. What happens when a person is both lazy and greedy?
3. Can a greedy person also be a giving and generous person? Why or why not?



**d. Isaiah 56:11**

1. Greed can lead to a cold and self-ish society. Why?

**e. 1 Timothy 3:1–3**

1. Why is it important for a person who desires to work for God to be free from greed?
2. What are some problems a worker of God can get into if he is greedy?

**f. 1 Timothy 6:6–10**

1. In what ways do you think greed can cause one to stray from faith?
2. How can one guard against greed?
3. Why is contentment the best way to guard against greed?



Check For Understanding

1. What did Lot choose for himself, and why were his choices not wise?

What was wrong with Gehazi's attitudes?

3. What happened to Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit?

Why would you say Judas is indeed a tragic figure?

5. What does the Bible say about greed and faith and/or service to God?

Why is contentment the best way to guard against greed?



## The Tragedy of Greed

Many years ago, there was a sparsely populated country with vast lands suitable for farming that adjoined a heavily populated country with very little land to cultivate. The king of the large country made a declaration offering parts of his land to anyone who wished to farm in his country as long as they met his stipulated conditions. The farmers were required to leave from a specified location at sunrise, stake out the land and return to the same location by sunset and not a minute later. If one were late returning, then the land was forfeited.

There was a man who left at sunrise to stake out his desired land. He walked a distance staking out his posts and continued to do so in pursuit of acquiring more land for his use. As the sun began to set in the western sky, he realized that he had strayed too far from the destination. In order to return by sunset, the man ran all the way back to the destination but in the process, died at the finish from exhaustion. The king ordered his subordinates to bury the man, and despite his effort to meet the deadline no property was granted to him.

### Questions to Think About

1. *In the story, the man was greedy for land/property. What other things do you think people covet and crave after? (Think of some of the tragic life-stories you know of where greed is the cause of a person's downfall.)*
2. *In the story, the greedy man exhausted himself because he didn't think to come back earlier. What are some of the things people do to get what they want?*
3. *Do you think going to such lengths to achieve what we want befits a Christian? What are some things we should never do? Where and when do we draw the line?*
4. *How do you think one can control greed?*

We know that greed is something we have to fight against. As children of God, we rely on the Holy Spirit to help us. It helps also to be able to look at our own weaknesses and pre-empt the temptations that we are likely to be exposed to as a result. Greed is something innate in almost every one of us. It does not mean that one has to be a robber or burglar to be considered a greedy man. Greed manifests itself even in small ways.



**There is a story about a very indulgent mother who always condoned her son whenever he stole something from a neighbor as a child. One day, it would be a bowl of food, another it would be a little gold pin. She never stopped him. As the son grew up, he became more and more bold and soon, he became a robber. He robbed all kinds of people. From small items as a child, he upgraded to huge amounts of money. Finally, he was caught and about to be hanged. In the last visitation, he asked his mother to come close to him by the bars of his prison cell. The mother thought he had come up with a good plan of escape. Little did she expect what was going to happen to her. The son bit off his mother's ears! He said he did it as revenge because he blamed his mother for not teaching him right as he was growing up. If he had been taught to curb his little acts of stealing when he was young, he would not have become a criminal.**

One of the messages of this story is that greed, if left to develop, can lead to grave mistakes in life. Think of one or two areas where you know you are the weakest and will likely succumb to greed. Then write a short explanatory note about the area and what those temptations to sin are. After, the note will be put anonymously into a box. The teacher will then pick out each slip of paper and write those areas identified on the board. As a class, everyone will brainstorm how we can guard against those temptations.

## Anger Gone Awry...



### Numbers 20:1-12

- What was the complaint from the Israelites?
- In vv. 3-5, we see that the Israelites made a complaint in a manner that they had always been doing since they left Egypt. Analyze the complaint.
  - What types of comparisons did they make?
  - Who were they pointing a finger at?
  - Do you think such murmuring provoked Moses' moods, or anyone's moods, for that matter? Why?
- What did God tell Moses he should do to handle the situation?
- What were the result of the complaints on Moses (vv. 10-12)?
- If you were in Moses' shoes, do you think you would have done differently?

### Judges 12:1-6

- What was the complaint of the Ephraimites (v.1)?
  - Do you think it was a justified complaint? Why?
  - Do you think their approach was provocative and offensive? Explain.
  - Do you think they could have voiced their displeasure in another way? How?
- What was Jephthah's reply? Do you think his reply was equally provocative and offensive, like the approach of the Ephraimites? Cite evidence from the passage.
- What was the result of the confrontation between the Ephraimites and Jephthah?
- Do you think the tragedy could have been averted? In what ways could both sides have given in a little?
- What does this event tell you about the potential damage of confrontations and spiteful words?

## ...Potential Confrontation Avoided

### Daniel 6:1-10

- What was the plot against Daniel?
- As the favored one of the king, do you think Daniel could have gone up to the king to clarify matters after learning about the plot against himself?
- Why was the situation potentially confrontational? Who would have been likely to confront whom?
- What did Daniel choose to do to deal with the situation?
- What else could he have done, if anything? Explain.

### John 8:1-7

- Why was this a situation that was potentially confrontational?
- Who were the ones who tried to initiate the tension/confrontation against the Lord Jesus?
- How did the Lord Jesus alleviate the tension?

### Check For Understanding

1.

What was the complaint of the Israelites at Kadesh?

Why did Moses lose his cool?

2.

3.

What did Jephthah do that caused the Israelite brothers to end up killing one another?

What could have been done in the cases of Moses and Jephthah to avoid the tragedies?

4.

5.

What were the methods of Daniel and the Lord Jesus in dealing with potentially confrontational situations?



## Anger Gone Awry...

Most human beings get angry at some points in their lives. Some people are more prone to anger, while others are not. Actually, when we say a person is prone to anger, it is often because we see more manifestations of anger from that person. One of the most commonly seen manifestations of anger is the outburst of angry words. Here is a thought-provoking story about the damage of anger and spiteful words.



Once upon a time, there was a boy with a very difficult character. His father gave him a bag full of nails and told him to drive one nail in the garden fence every time he lost his patience and/or had an argument with someone. The first day, the boy drove 37 nails in the garden fence.

In the following weeks, the boy learned to control himself and the number of nails driven into the fence got lower everyday. The boy discovered that it was easier to learn to control himself than to hammer nails in the fence.

At last, the day came when the boy did not drive any nails in the garden fence. Then he went to his father and told him that he did not need to hammer any nails again. His father then told him to take out one nail from the fence for every day he succeeded in controlling his temper and not losing his patience.

Many days passed and finally the boy could tell his father that he took out all the nails from the fence. The father brought his son in front of the fence and told him: "My son, you behaved well, but look how many holes you left in the fence. It will never be the same again."

### Questions to think about:

1. *Can you think of an occasion when you were angry and said things or did things that caused "holes in the fence" as the boy did in the story?*
2. *Did you manage to make amends for the damage or hurt you caused? If so, how? If not, why not?*
3. *If you could do things differently, what would you have done in that incident?*
4. *What lesson did you learn from that incident?*



**When you have an argument with someone and say hurtful words to him, you leave him with wounds like the nail holes in the fence. You can stab a man and then take the knife out, but you will always leave a wound. It does not matter how many times you say sorry, the wound will stay. A wound caused by words hurts just as badly as a physical wound.**



## Self-control in times of anger

As the memory verse teaches us, we should not sin when we are angry. What does it mean to be angry but not to sin?



It is sometimes inevitable that things happen or certain people make us angry. But, how we deal with the situation will determine if we are true Christians with good spiritual character. The Bible has many verses of encouragement about how to handle confrontational situations. Using a concordance, work in groups of two or three to come up with a list of five verses that are relevant for exhortation in self-control when we are angry. You may use search words like “angry”, “wrath”, “feelings” etc. As a group, brainstorm the words that are related to this topic.

For each verse, come up with an example of a potentially explosive situation and an explanatory paragraph of how the Bible verse can help alleviate the anger. Here’s a sample for this exercise:

Bible Verse	Example of Situation	Explanation of how the verse helps/could have helped
Proverb 15:1 – “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”	Mary came back home one day looking like she had a bad day. The moment she stepped into the apartment she said really loudly to her sister, “Could you please turn off the music? I am stressed out as it is already, and your music irritates me even more!” Her sister felt very offended and replied, “You deserve to be stressed out. It’s nothing to do with me. Why are you taking it out on me and my music?” A bigger verbal fight then ensued.	If Mary had been careful to remind herself not to have spiteful outbursts, knowing that she had had a stressful day, she would not have provoked her sister.  If her sister had remembered to reply with a soft answer, such as, “Okay, I’ll turn off the music now. Are you feeling alright?”, things would have been under control right away.
Example 2		
Example 3		
Example 4		
Example 5		

# Memory Verse



**1. 1 Thess 5:16–18 (Lesson 1)**

“Rejoice always, \_\_\_\_\_, in everything \_\_\_\_\_; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Relation to my life today:

**2. Phil 2:15 (Lesson 2)**

“That you may become \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, children of God without fault in the midst of a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ generation, among whom you \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.”

Relation to my life today:

**3. Heb 12:14 (Lesson 4)**

“Pursue \_\_\_\_\_ with all people, and \_\_\_\_\_.”

Relation to my life today:

**4. Eph 5:15, 18 (Lesson 7)**

“See that you \_\_\_\_\_ not as fools but as \_\_\_\_\_ ... and do not be drunk with \_\_\_\_\_, in which is dissipation, but be \_\_\_\_\_.”

Relation to my life today:

**5. Rom 8:5 (Lesson 10)**

“For those who live according to the flesh \_\_\_\_\_, but those who live \_\_\_\_\_.”

Relation to my life today:

**6. Eph 4:26, 27 (Lesson 12)**

“Be angry but \_\_\_\_\_: do not let the sun \_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_.”

Relation to my life today:



## Discussion



1. **Too Busy to Pray?**
  - Why is it important to have a prayer routine?
  - Who are the “heroes of prayer” in the Bible, and how did prayer benefit them?
2. **Getting Your Spiritual Life in Shape**
  - Discuss a plan, detailing the “workouts” to keep our spiritual life in shape. What are the required procedures and why are they important?
3. **Dating 101**
  - Is it okay for Christians to date?
  - What is a good age to start dating? Why?
  - What are the things one should be very careful about when it comes to relationships with members of the opposite sex?
4. **Why Stay Pure?**
  - Why is purity so important?
  - What are the circumstances/situations where purity may be threatened? How can we circumvent such situations?
5. **Love For a Lifetime**
  - How is love different from a mere infatuation?
  - From the Bible, what is the true essence of love?
6. **www.popmusic.today**
  - Why do we have to be especially selective about the lyrics of the songs we listen to?
  - How does music affect a person?
  - Give two examples from the Bible of how music can be related with spirituality.
7. **Let's Party!**
  - Why is alcohol a dangerous thing?
  - What are some of the ways we can avoid the influence of alcohol?
8. **www.x-rated.sin**
  - How do we know that pornography is a sin?
  - What are some healthy activities we can engage in, instead of directing our attention to unhealthy and un-edifying activities such as pornography?
9. **Homosexuality**
  - What is the Bible's stand on homosexuality?
  - What should our attitude be towards homosexuals?
10. **Honesty Counts**
  - In which areas should we be honest?
11. **Greed**
  - Name some of the biblical characters who fell as a result of greed.
  - What are the lessons we can learn from their downfall?
  - How can we guard ourselves against greed?
12. **Anger**
  - How is anger related to sin/transgression?
  - What are some good strategies to adopt when we feel angry, so that we do not sin?

Now, the choice is ours: Are we determined to live according to the flesh or live by the Spirit in life and put to death the deeds of the body (Romans 8:13)?

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God **permits**  
**tests** to come our way to train

and to build up those He loves. He does this

with good and noble reasons, so that we may be **refined.**

*“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.”*

**Romans 6:12**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching,  
rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16

# J2 Year 2 Book 3

General Assembly of the True Jesus Church

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printed February, 2005