

# Let's Party!

## Listed Scriptures

Prov 20:1, 23:30–35; 1 Cor 6:12, 10:23, 8:8, 9, 13; Phil 4:13, Prov 3:5, 6

## Lesson Aim

- 1) To enable our students to know the hard facts about substance abuse and alcoholism.
- 2) To help our students say “no” the first time they are invited to drink/smoke through role-play.
- 3) To help our students understand that the Holy Spirit can help us make wise decisions in difficult situations.

## Memory Verse

“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)

## Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

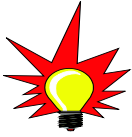
Proverbs 19–21

## B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



Due to the nature of this lesson, there is no Bible background information available.

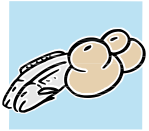
## W A R M U P



What are some of the activities you and/or your friends from outside of the church do when you hang out? Maybe most of you have not been exposed yet to the wilder aspects of teenage life. But a lot of teens engage in drugs, smoking, dancing and heavy drinking when they hang out. Partying becomes an even more common activity when you enter college. Going to clubs is something many non-Christians do too.

If you do not have exposure to these types of activities, we thank God, and there is no need for you to give them a try. If you are already being asked to join in these kinds of activities, it is important to understand the hidden risks and pray to God for help to overcome these temptations.

## B I B L E S T U D Y



### Part 1

### *Drinking, a highly risky activity!*

Read the following verses: Proverbs 20:1 and Proverbs 23:30–35.

Questions to discuss:

- 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?

Here, the writer of the proverbs gives a very true depiction of what it is like to get tipsy, and then ultimately, drunk. With alcohol, no one can know the point when one loses control over one's own actions. Getting drunk is not something that sets in abruptly. It sets in gradually, and often begins when one is still in complete consciousness. It is a gradual process where one slowly lapses first into a very relaxed mood and becomes emboldened to do things one would not normally do. Then,

when one gets drunk, one may not even be conscious of what one does or does not do. In many cases, one does not even remember the things one has done in a state of drunkenness.

Besides getting drunk, another problem related to consumption of alcohol is alcoholism. Many alcoholics first started out as people who drink to reduce stress. Since antiquity, it has been observed that there is a relationship between alcohol consumption and stress—reduction. For instance, the Greek poet, Alcaeus prescribes drinking as a way to handle distress: “We must not let our spirits give way to grief ... Best of all defenses is to mix plenty of wine and drink it.” Shakespeare, in his play *Julius Caesar* (Act IV, Scene III), writes: “Speak no more of her. Give me a bowl of wine. In this I bury all unkindness...”

Actually alcohol is not the only tool that has been used for solving problems (or rather, avoiding problems). Cigarettes and drugs are often used in the same way. These are in fact not solutions to anything at all. They become a problem in themselves when one finds oneself addicted to them! This is often a reality because these substances get people hooked before they even realizes it.



### Part 2

### *Drunkenness leads to sin!*

In the Bible, we can find characters who have committed sins under the influence of alcohol. As you read about these characters, you will find that they did not set out to do these foolish things. But wine got the better of them, without their realizing it until it was too late. That is why alcohol is such a venomous thing!

### **Noah (Gen 9:20–24)**

- What do you think caused Noah to drink?  
(His life had become rather stable. He had planted a vineyard and made his own wine. In a state of complacency, he did not control himself and drank too much.)
- Are there similar situations today that may induce one to drink, often too much?  
(It is more likely for us to drink too much when in the company of people who drink. Out of the spirit of fun and friendship, we may be encouraged to go on drinking. Sometimes, we may drink because we want to be accepted by others. Or, we may just want to try out of curiosity. We may also drink because

we have heard that drinking can make us forget our woes since drinks can relax a person, and cause us to lose sobriety! It is hard to know how much we can really drink. Besides, it is difficult to keep track of how much we are drinking when with friends. Hence, it is best not to even get started.)

### Lot (Gen 19:30–36)

- a. Do you think the tragedy of incest in this case could have been avoided? How so?  
(One very crucial factor here is the wine. If Lot had been vigilant and controlled himself, he would not have gotten drunk.)
- b. Lot did not learn from his mistake the first night. What lessons can we learn from his folly?  
(We should always remember our first folly and not allow ourselves to repeat our mistakes. In fact, in the case of drinking, one should simply just avoid it altogether.)

### King Belshazzar (Dan 5:1–4)

- a. Under the circumstances of an imperial feast, do you think the king could have avoided drinking?  
(Probably not.)
- b. What could he have done instead of getting himself drunk?  
(He could have been wise to simply drink a little and continue to take sips from the same glass for the entire evening. He could also have made other activities the focus of the banquet rather than wine.)
- c. What sins did he commit when he was tipsy?  
(He used the vessels from God’s temple as serving glasses for drinks for his guests. He also praised the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone, i.e. idols.)
- d. What does this case tell us about the dangers of drinking?  
(In our state of semi—consciousness when we drink, we become relaxed and our spirits and actions are often beyond our full control. This is the time when we are vulnerable to sinning against God when we do not actually mean it.)

## C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



1

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

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

## L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

### 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. 1 Cor 6:12  
(For the teacher: There are many things that the Bible does not explicitly say we cannot do. However, many things often have the power to hold a person in such a way that an addiction develops. Cigarettes and drugs are definitely in this category. In this verse there are two factors to consider: what is helpful and whether we can be brought under the power of that activity.)
2. 1 Cor 10:23  
(For the teacher: There are many things that we as Christians can do. But, the more pertinent question is actually to ask if an activity edifies or not. The issue of whether an activity edifies is has two facets to it: edifying for the self and edifying for others, which then brings us to the next point. See below.)
3. 1 Cor 8:8, 9, 13  
(For the teacher: Paul considers whether his actions would cause a brother to stumble. He’s even willing to not eat meat if eating meat is something that could make a brother stumble in faith. This is a continuation of the second point raised – whether or not our actions bring edification to another person. When doing anything, we should consider what impact that action would have on

- others.)
- 1 Cor 6:19, 20  
(For the teacher: Our body is the temple of God. Through baptism, this body of ours is dipped into the water and the precious blood of Jesus Christ miraculously washes away our sins. God even allows His own spirit, the Holy Spirit to dwell in this physical body. So this physical body is very precious. We must not do anything to deliberately cause harm to this body, such as smoking, drinking or taking in other substances. We have to give an account to God as to how we take care of this physical body.)

### ***Part B- "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"***

Read Philippians 4:13. We often do not know our own weaknesses and limits until we actually fail and fall. What comes after we get ourselves into trouble is the hard road to recovery. In the following testimony, a brother who was once addicted to drugs testified of the grace of God which helped him overcome his addiction. The power of God and His Holy Spirit will help us flee evil, and that is the true meaning of the verse we've just read, that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!

Reading Material: "In Hopelessness I Met God" (Testimony by Bro. Jason Yu, *Manna* 38, p. 7-9. Available also from [www.mannamagazine.org](http://www.mannamagazine.org).)

After reading the testimony, work in groups of 2 and outline the process and the steps that brother Jason took in his road to recovery and into the fold of God.

### ***Part C- Cigarettes, Drugs and Alcohol***

In this activity, the students will have to

- come up with a scenario where the temptation to try either 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".

Procedure:

- First, as a class, have the students brainstorm some possible places or occasions where such temptations may arise.
- Have them also discuss how one may be approached to try out those substances.

- Then, have them list the ways one can stay firm and say "no" – both internally as well as explicitly to the people who are inviting them to try.
- Then, in groups of 2 or 3, have them prepare a sketch depicting a scenario.
- When the groups are ready, have each group present the sketch in front of the class.
- After all the presentations, ask the class if they have further suggestions about the situations presented by each group concerning how to say "no" to temp-

## **R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R**



*Sing Hymn 177. As we go through life, we will find that temptations will increase. Boundaries between what is right and wrong, what is permissible and what is not become more fuzzy. It is necessary that we are well equipped with the word of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we have wisdom and strength to discern what is right from wrong, and good from bad. In addition, we should always rely on God. Let's read a verse for conclusion. Read Proverbs 3:5, 6 – "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths."*