

IT'S COMPLICATED
Wk 2/3: Honor & Respect
February 8 & 9, 2020

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to realize they are called to treat themselves and others with respect in a culture that doesn't always live this out.

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:13-16 NLT

THINK ABOUT THIS

There is a lot of different directions your students could take today's lesson. It's been designed intentionally for you and your group to be able to take the conversation in the direction most applicable to your specific students and their maturity level with dating and pornography. If a student shares with you they are struggling with masturbation or pornography, engage in a conversation with them about it following the steps on the back of this guide. Also be mindful that you may have students in your group who have sent inappropriate pictures of themselves to others. If you suspect or know that is the case, take some time in your group to really dig into a conversation of how to respect and forgive yourself.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.



CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

We can go to God for strength to overcome temptation, respect others, and live holy lives.

OBJECT LESSON SETUP

Divide your candy in half and pass it out evenly among your students. Tell them to keep it right in front of them, and they can eat it, but if they resist the temptation to eat it until the end of small group – you'll double their amount of candy. If they eat it now, they get none later.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are different temptations middle schoolers face when it comes to attraction and dating?
2. What are ways guys can disrespect girls when it comes to dating and attraction?
3. What are ways girls can disrespect guys when it comes to dating and attraction?
4. What are ways people can disrespect themselves when it comes to dating and attraction?

READ 1 PETER 1:13-16 and answer the following questions:

5. In your own words, what is the meaning of these Bible verses?
6. What are things we can do to "prepare our minds for action and exercise self control?"
7. To be holy is to be different. To be different takes courage. What are ways we can increase our courage to live different where God asks us to live differently?

OBJECT LESSON WRAP UP

Ask: What thoughts were going through your mind as we talked about your candy? Was it easy or hard to resist eating it? Did anyone give in and eat it? Did anyone resist?

Share: Temptations always seem good upfront, but they cost us something later. For those of you who gave in, you've had all the candy I'm going to give you today. For the rest of you, I'll divide out the rest of the candy and give it to you as a reward!

NEXT STEP

Pray every morning this week and ask God to help you resist temptation and live a holy life.

PRAYER GUIDE

As we close, let's take a silent moment to ask God to forgive us for when we've disrespected others and to give us the courage and strength to change. What prayer requests do we have? Close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

1 PETER 1:13-16 (NLT)

“So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴ So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn’t know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶ For the Scriptures say, “You must be holy because I am holy.”

LEADER CORNER

If a student tells you they are struggling to stop sending or watching pornography and/or masturbating, engage in a conversation with them about it:

- **First, thank** them for being vulnerable enough to tell you and for stepping up to ask for help.

THAT IS HUGE!

- **If you are a high school student, let them know you are going to bring in adult small group leader or staff** so we can walk alongside both of you in this conversation. Go together right then to continue the conversation.

- **Let them know you’ll be praying for them and there is some accountability software** they can use to help them (see below).

- Remind them that **God’s forgiveness to us is unlimited** and that we can lean on the **Holy Spirit’s power** to help us overcome temptation.

- **Remind them that the more trusted people “on their team” helping them overcome this struggle the better**, including parents! While it is not a requirement for us to tell parents if their students tell us they are watching pornography and/or masturbating, **we want to highly encourage students to share this with their parents**. Your student may be terrified of this, but encourage them that it’s in their best interest; even offer to be with them while they tell their parents if that will help.

ACCOUNTABILITY SOFTWARE RESOURCES

Ever Accountable:

<https://www.everaccountable.com/>

Accountable2you.app:

<https://www.accountable2you.com/features>

Covenant eyes

(better for computer):

<http://www.covenanteyes.com/>

Net Nanny

(gives deeper parental controls):

<https://www.netnanny.com>