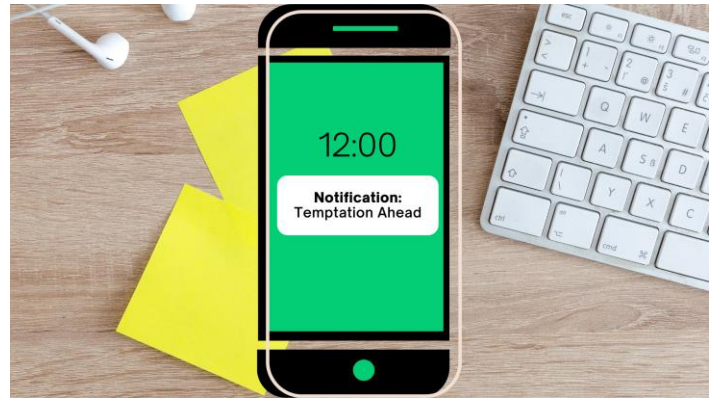


**Notification: Temptation Ahead**  
**Week 1 of 4**  
**March 7, 2021**



## LEADER PREP

### GOALS OF SMALL GROUP

- (1) To open conversation and let students know small group is a safe place to talk about attractions, relationships, and sex.
- (2) To point students toward relying on God's Word, parents, and church leaders more than their friends or culture when it comes to understanding attraction, relationships, and sex.

### SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:27-28 & 2:24

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Due to the nature of this series topic, we want you to be extra prepared in spirit, heart, and mind. Please be sure to take extra time on your own before leading lessons to:

- Read over all the material in leader packet,
- Attend huddles on time,
- And pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare you and lead you as you lead your students in discussion.

*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

**Sex is good and sex is powerful, so respect it.**

### GET THEM TALKING

1. How can notifications, like on a phone, be helpful?
2. What are some consequences of ignoring notifications?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. On a scale from 1 to 10, hold up your fingers to show: How comfortable do you feel about talking in small groups about things like dating, attraction, and sex? *Be honest, it's ok. We get it may not always feel comfortable, but we want you to know this is a safe place to talk about these things because we care about you and think it's important.*

### **READ GENESIS 1:27-28 & 2:24 and answer the following questions:**

4. Who created sex?
5. How did God design for it to be used?
6. What are some negative consequences of using sex outside of its original design?
7. Why is this important to talk about now?
8. What are different things people at school, in tv/movies, or social media say about dating, attraction, and sex?
9. Do you think those are the best, most reliable sources for information? Where else can you go for reliable, godly information?
10. What are ways middle schoolers can respect God's design for sex?

### NEXT STEP

You may still have questions or questions may come up later. Remember **to think through who you are hearing advice from about attraction, dating, and sex and if they are the most reliable source?** Take your questions to a godly, trusted adult who can speak wisdom into your life.

### PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

## SCRIPTURE

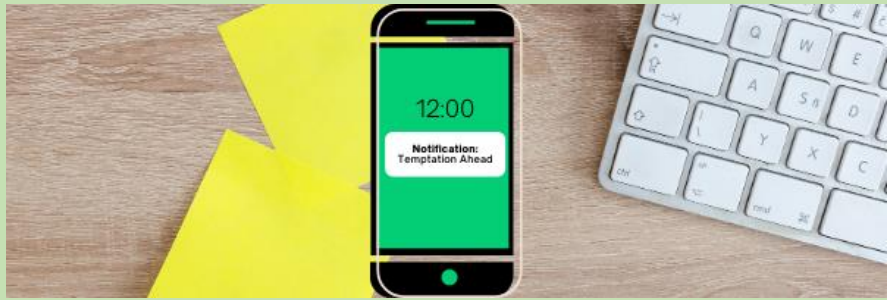
MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

### GENESIS 1:27-28 & 2:24 (NIV)

“So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.....<sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”



## UPCOMING SERIES NOTIFICATION: TEMPTATION AHEAD



### MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT PACKET

Hey MSM Parents! We've got a series coming up where you will have a lot of opportunity to speak truth in students' lives to help them navigate a particularly difficult area – relationships and sex. We want to partner with you well by empowering you with all our material in advance and encourage you to have conversations with students at home before they attend MSM.

#### WHAT THIS SERIES IS NOT:

- It's not an encouragement to date.
- It's not a sex education class.

#### WHAT THIS SERIES IS:

- **An opportunity to open communication channels** and encourage students to seek Godly wisdom and advice in an area they may not feel comfortable to bring up on their own.
- **An opportunity for middle school students to build some Biblical foundations** in a pivotal area of life that can have huge impact on their future.
- **An opportunity to for the church to partner with YOU, the parent**, by not only sharing what we are talking about with them in advance, but consistently encouraging our students to have conversations with you on this topic at home.

#### IS IT TOO EARLY TO HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS?

- Crushes, new feelings, attractions, urges and even pressures to date are becoming more and more of our students' worlds as they grow up. **We want to have age-appropriate conversations that prepare students.**
- We intentionally have it built into the first message for the speaker to say "sex" on stage because it's a word that carries a lot of weight, and we want to break the ice from stage that church is a safe place to talk about sex.
- Did you know **the average age of exposure to porn is 8-11 years old?** 80% of this happens within the home. Our goal is to equip students to know how to respond Biblically when sexual temptations arise.

#### HOW WILL WE HELP YOU PREPARE TO LEAD DISCUSSIONS AT HOME?

- We will be sharing our whole series resources with you further in advance so you can BEGIN PRAYING AND PREPARING NOW for leading your students through this. We suggest you sit down with your student in advance and go over these topics. It's important to remind your students you are a safe place for them to talk about anything.
- This packet includes extra resources to help you navigate different conversations your students may bring up during this lesson.

#### 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>
- Triple X Church (free but limited): <https://x3watch.com/>

# 7 Tips

FOR TALKING  
ABOUT SEXUALITY  
WITH YOUR CHILDREN

→ Questions about sex, sexuality and gender have become some of the most pressing ethical questions facing the home today, and your children especially are swimming in the deep end of these topics. Your leadership and facilitation as a parent are incredibly important.

**Discipling your kids in this topic is not easy. It's uncomfortable. It's nerve-wracking. And the world your kids are growing up in is drastically different from the world you grew up in. They're being faced with questions and ideas and relationships that didn't seem to exist 20 or 30 years ago.**

**Some of the greatest challenges for a parent are the conversations surrounding sexuality and gender. But you must understand one TRUTH, it's probably the one thing you need to hear more than any other - YOUR VOICE MATTERS! And it needs to be included in this dialogue.**

**These are crucial questions directly related to your children's spiritual growth and they are being bombarded with alternative and destructive views on these topics every single day. Plus, the church rarely has good, honest, gospel-centered discussions about these topics. Especially if you include topics like porn, masturbation, same-sex attraction, or transgender identities. It's no longer just a conversation about not having sex before marriage.**

**Unfortunately, your kids are getting a sex education from somewhere whether we want them to or not. So, rather than pretending like we can (or even should) shelter them, we should educate them in God's design for sex in a healthy and God-honoring way.**

**So, what could a talk on  
sexuality look like in your home?  
Here are seven tips on how  
to begin engaging these  
conversations with your children.**



# 1

## Your children need to know God loves them.

God's love for us is foundational. All obedience, all of our sexual integrity, is a response to God's prior love for us. And we need to drive this home for our children. If all they do is "remain virgins until their married," then we've failed. I mean, that's a good thing, but we're not saved by sexual purity, but by the purifying work of Christ. He is our foundation. Knowing God loves them is paramount to the entirety of this conversation.

This is also why we advocate for using the term **sexual integrity rather than sexuality purity**. The term sexual purity has a lot of baggage associated with it. For too long this term has been associated

more with behavior modification or sin management, than the transformational work of Christ in our lives. Unfortunately, this has reduced "Christian sex" to simply choosing to wait for sex until marriage...to remain a virgin.

But we must understand, sex is not just physical. It is emotional, social, and spiritual. **Sexual integrity** is about having a holistic view of sex. It requires more than just self-willed behavior. It requires turning to the Lord with all our hearts and being empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey. Sexual Integrity is about saying "YES!" to living a faithful, flourishing life as a sexual being according to how God has designed you.

# 2

## Embrace the awkwardness.

As a parent, who chooses to engage in these conversations, you will need to become comfortable in the awkward tension. Sometimes anxiety can get in the way of having some of the most important dialogue with your kids. But don't let it stop you!

Many adults will feel uncomfortable talking about the topics of sex, sexuality, and gender due to the sensitive nature of each discussion. Maybe it is because you didn't have a chance to discuss these topics when you were younger. Maybe it is because you've always thought this conversation should remain private. Or maybe you have not dealt with shame from your own sexual

brokenness. This is something all of us at some point need to face. Whatever the reason, you have a responsibility to help your children engage this conversation.

One thing that might also help: if possible, practice having these conversations with your spouse or other trusted adults before ever having them with your children. Also, as you prepare for these conversations, become a trustworthy guide for your kids. Listen to what they say about the culture. Specifically, pay attention to the conversations they might have with friends surrounding these topics. By doing so, you'll be able to better help your children navigate their own experiences.



# 3

## No topic is off limits.

Don't shy away from the difficult subjects. It is incredibly important to create spaces that are safe for your kid to discuss anything. And this is not just something you say – it has to be modeled day in and day out. Your posture will be just as important as what you communicate. Sometimes HOW we believe is just as influential for your kids as WHAT we believe.

Also, your kids will know if you're giving them cliched answers to complex questions. If you're going to be available for any conversation then make sure you are honest and respectful. And if you don't know the answer one of the best things you can say is, "I don't know but let's find out together!" This creates a communal spirit and shows you are willing to walk alongside your child in their search for answers. Humility and an openness to learn builds credibility with this generation.

Please understand, your kids are going to want answers to more than just how far they can go sexually with a boyfriend or girlfriend. As you

probably already know youth are struggling with a variety of issues surrounding sex, sexuality, and gender. They may have questions about sex: how far is too far, or what exactly is considered sex? They might also have questions about their sexual orientation or their gender identity. Being available and willing to engage in each of these conversations will be important.

And let's not forget – the Church hasn't always done well in the conversations surrounding LGBTQ identities. Please remember, most youth probably have LGBTQ friends and have been unimpressed with how the church has treated LGBTQ people. Or they might be struggling with their own sexuality. Parents who don't address LGBTQ related questions will come off as tone-deaf to the conversation. And if our children see their parents as tone deaf, your theological position will lose credibility. This is why it will be important to begin sexuality talks with a posture of humility and repentance; you will want to first humanize the conversation before getting into Scripture.

# 4

## One conversation is not enough!

Helping your children align their sexual lives with the creator's plan is one of the greatest opportunities you have as a parent.

And the good news is that it doesn't need to happen in ONE talk. It can (and should) happen over many years and many different talks.

These are not conversations that you need to force. Allow your children to control the pace and rhythm with which they move the dialogue. One child might ask you about sex at 8 while the other doesn't ask anything until 9. As you become the expert of your children you will learn how to move the conversation forward.

But this doesn't happen in just one - 100 minute talk. Rather it happens over 100-one minute talks. This gives them time to digest the information. It also gives you time to prepare for each and every conversation that lies ahead.

And don't be surprised if your children know more than you or at least sounds like they do by using new terms or talking about identities you've never heard of. Generation Z, your kids, will not have a lack of resources when it comes to this subject. That is why you must be the first and last place they seek information. Become Google to your children when it comes to the topics of sex, sexuality, and gender. This means becoming a student long before your children ever do by studying recent trends and what other youth are asking long before your kids ever ask you.

Unfortunately, parents incorrectly assume they are giving enough information to their teens. In one study, 90 percent of parents reported having had a conversation about sex with their teen. However, nearly 4 in 10 teens say they have never discussed sex or sexuality with their parents.

Don't let this be you. Start the conversation if you haven't already and keep it alive all throughout their life.

# 5

## Cultivate a passion for both TRUTH and GRACE.

We need to have a love for what scripture says about sex, sexuality, and gender. This means having a desire to seek TRUTH and understand God's divine plan for sex. Recognizing that God is the creator and author of all. It also means extending GRACE in everything that we do and say.

Most youth will get the grace part of this conversation. Many of them extend 'grace' to friends who are habitually looking at porn or are having sex. It's also common for youth to only emphasize grace when discussing LGBTQ related questions. The unfortunate reality is often these conversations are one-sided. Emphasizing grace but with no truth. Or, all truth with no grace. But your children need to hear both!

Your children need to understand what the Bible says about sex, sexuality, and gender. This means you need to study Scripture. Learn to love what it reveals. You need to be a student of Scripture so you can share its truths with your children.

But as you learn the Bible's truths you will also learn of the grace, the incredible grace given and received throughout the gospel. Youth need to know they can love their friend caught in sexual sin - or themselves - as God's precious children. By being committed to following what the Bible says about grace and forgiveness they also learn his wonderful and divine plan for sex.

# 6

## We need to discuss shame and forgiveness.

So many youth are hooked on porn, habitually masturbating, or having sex outside of marriage. These experiences along with several others can produce shame in the lives of Christians. This shame can then prevent them from truly engaging in conversations about sex, sexuality, and gender in healthy ways.

Communicating God's forgiveness and also teaching your children to forgive themselves will be important, except in instances of abuse where a victim can treat themselves with contempt because they wrongly believe the abuse was their fault. For those who have been sexually abused, taking a step toward freedom from shame won't occur unless someone walks with them in their pain and confusion.

This means you must listen, listen, listen. This may be the first time they've ever

shared this story. It is incredibly vulnerable so honor that moment with your time and patience. Be sure to also communicate that this was not their fault. Often someone who has been abused can think they are responsible for the choice that was stolen from them. That is simply not true!

Helping your children feel comfortable and "not alone" in their shame will be important. Once they expose their shame to the light, they can start to find healing through community and ultimately through Jesus Christ. Oftentimes we see that shame drives us into isolation, but healing comes through a group of committed friends and mentors who draw us out and love on us as Jesus would. And there is no one more important in this process than YOU as a parent!

# 7

## Talk about singleness as much or more as you talk about marriage.

Sometimes our focus on marriage can make an idol out of it. As parents, we need to promote a biblical understanding of marriage. And the Bible does not promise that everyone will or should get married. So when you say things like, “WHEN you get married...” we’re not promoting a biblical view of marriage. Marriage is a good and beautiful vocation that some (perhaps many) are called to. And so is singleness.

Instead of saying “when you get married...” we should follow the biblical view of marriage by saying “if God calls you to marriage...” When we assume everyone should or will get married, we unintentionally devalue singleness.

Please understand, your kids are going to wait longer, most likely, than any other generation to get married (if they do get married). This means they will live a much longer life being single than past

generations. The average age of marriage in the 1950’s was 21. Today the average age is 29. For some of your children that is a WHOLE other lifetime. So you need to promote the truth that singleness is not just a stage to get through, but as a gift and calling to take advantage of even if it is only for a season.

To be blunt, if you or your church communicates that marriage is the end-goal of life, or that singleness is a miserable existence, then the biblical point of marriage will be lost. If you’re married, be honest about the tough parts of your marriage. If you only talk about the good parts of your marriage, your children will not have a realistic picture of marriage. And, if you’re single, then help them see the blessings of singleness. Don’t pass over the hard stuff either. All stages of life come with difficulties and your children need to know this!



## NOTIFICATION: TEMPTATION AHEAD SERIES OVERVIEW



### SERIES AT A GLANCE

#### TEACHING THEME

Moral Boundaries\*  
(details on back)

#### SERIES OVERVIEW

When a phone battery is running low, a notification pops up with a warning. Temptation pops up everywhere we go: school, hanging out with friends, even when we are home alone. While we don't get a notification right before every temptation, we are actually already given lots of notifications in the Bible to always be alert for approaching temptations, prepare to overcome them, and resist them by turning to God. When your next temptation comes up, will you choose to turn to Jesus to overcome it or dismiss the warning?

#### SERIES GOALS TO SHARE EACH WEEK

- OPEN COMMUNICATION - We know talking about sex can feel awkward, but we want to open up the lines of communication because we care and it's important.
- THIS IS FOR YOU - Even in middle school, this applies to you because things like crushes, attractions, temptations, desires – they all spin off from this topic of sex.
- JESUS CONNECTION: God knew we'd give in to temptation and sin, so He sent Jesus to rescue us and pay the penalty for our sins.
- RECAP main points shared in series so far (included in message resource)

### WEEK BY WEEK

#### WEEK 1: MARCH 7, 2021

- **MAIN POINT:** Sex is good and sex is powerful, so respect it.
- **MAIN SCRIPTURE(S):** Genesis 1:27-28 & 2:24
- **SECONDARY TEACHING POINTS:**
  - o God created sex and it's good.
  - o Sex is designed to be enjoyed by a man and woman committed to each other in marriage.
  - o When sex is used in a right way, it's extremely powerful in a good way. When sex is used in a wrong way, it's extremely powerful in a bad way. So respect it.
  - o Attractions and temptations are not sin, but acting on lust or engaging in sexual behavior outside of God's design of marriage is sin.

#### WEEK 2: MARCH 14

- **MAIN POINT:** A screen isn't a loophole around temptation and sin; it can be a trap that's just as dangerous and addictive.
- **MAIN SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 6:18-20
- **SECONDARY TEACHING POINTS:**
  - o Though it isn't face-to-face, what happens on your screen is real life.
  - o What can you do to avoid this trap?
    1. Respect others, yourself, and sex.
    2. Honor God with your body, posts, and views.
    3. Run from sexual sin (temptation to use it outside it's intended context of marriage)

#### WEEK 3: MARCH 21

- **MAIN POINT:** As Christians we are called to balance living in God's grace and truth.
- **MAIN SCRIPTURES:** Zacchaeus story overview, Romans 2:4, Matthew 19:4-5, Romans 1:26-30
- **TEACHING POINTS (GRACE):**
  - o Zacchaeus example: Zacchaeus was a tax-collector in an anti-tax collector culture. Zacchaeus encountered God's kindness in Jesus before he began following Jesus.
  - o What is Sin? Attractions and temptations are not sin, but acting on lust or engaging in sexual behavior outside of God's design of marriage is sin.
- **TEACHING POINTS (TRUTH):**
  - o Jesus and the Bible define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.
  - o The Bible defines same-sex relationships as sin.
  - o God loves all people but hates all sin. We all need Jesus. We have all sinned and all need forgiveness that only Jesus can give to us.

#### WEEK 4: MARCH 28

- **MAIN POINT:** We all need accountability – every step you take is a step in the right direction.
- **MAIN SCRIPTURE(S):** Hebrews 4:13-16 & James 5:16
- **NOTE:** During SG time, have opposite gender panel to answer questions
- **TEACHING POINTS:** 5 Steps to Hold Yourself Accountable
  - o Be honest with yourself and others (Hebrews 4:13)
  - o Commit to God's ways (John 14:15)
  - o Invite others to keep you accountable (James 5:16)
  - o Make a Plan (Goals and guardrails)
  - o Rinse and Repeat (When you sin, remember God is forgiving and cheering you on every step you take closer to Him)

## \*TEACHING THEME

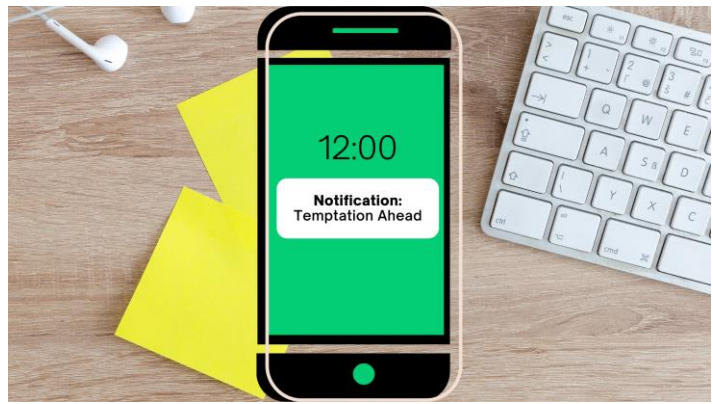
### **Moral Boundaries**

Think of moral boundaries like a fence: on one side is all the good, moral behaviors we can freely act on and outside of the fence are the immoral behaviors that will hurt us. Jesus doesn't want us to just see a list of yes and no's, but the Bible does give us moral boundary guidelines because **God defines in the Bible what sin is for us because He knows that boundaries protect us.** God sees a bigger picture for our lives full of hope, joy, peace, freedom, etc. Learning how to protect our bodies and emotions, **to honor God's plan for sex and morality**, and respect ourselves and others - **it's not about restrictions, it's actually about living more in God's freedom.**





**Notification: Temptation Ahead**  
**Week 2 of 4**  
**March 14, 2021**



## LEADER PREP

### GOALS OF SMALL GROUP

For students to realize even though it isn't face-to-face, what happens on their screen is real life and effects their spiritual life.

### SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Your students' parents will have different techniques and rules about using technology: let's honor our students' parents by being supportive of their parenting decisions. Some of your students may have their own smart devices, others may only be allowed to use their parents occasionally. It will be natural for your students to complain about any limits or boundaries their parents may have put on using technology. Try to encourage your student that although that may not feel good, their parent setting those limits is a good thing and shows how much they care for them!

*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

**A screen isn't a loophole around temptation and sin; it can be a trap that's just as dangerous and addictive.**

### GET THEM TALKING

What are some of your favorite apps?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can technology be helpful?
2. How can technology be harmful?
3. We are going to read today's Bible verse. As we do, I want you to think how you would explain to a friend what this verse is asking us to do and why:

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20 and answer the following questions:**

4. How would you explain to a friend what this verse is asking us to do? Why is it asking us that?
5. If we truly believe our bodies belong to God, how should that affect the way we treat and dress our bodies?
6. If we truly believe other people's bodies belong to God, how should that affect the way we treat and look at others?
7. When it comes to technology, what are ways you can honor God with what you post and what you watch?

### NEXT STEP & PRAYER GUIDE

God says His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, lives inside all of those who believe in Him and helps them to overcome temptation. We are going to take a few silent moments in prayer and I want you to think: what temptations do I face? Ask God to help you overcome those temptations. Give students a few minutes in silent prayer, then close in prayer asking God to hear everyone's prayers, forgive your sin, and help you overcome temptations.



## SCRIPTURE

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

### 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20 (NLT)

<sup>18</sup> Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. <sup>19</sup> Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, <sup>20</sup> for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."

**Notification: Temptation Ahead**  
**Week 3 of 4**  
**March 21, 2021**



## LEADER PREP

### GOALS OF SMALL GROUP

To give students a safe environment to read and discuss different Scriptures that discuss same-sex sexuality.

### SCRIPTURE

Romans 1:26-27 & Romans 2:4

### THINK ABOUT THIS

We are called to share God's truth in love. **Just a reminder that we are not here to teach our opinion but God's word.** It can be tempting to want to pick and choose which Bible verses we believe. If some of your students start sharing thoughts like, "I don't believe THAT scripture," remind them of these verses:

**"All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you." – Deuteronomy 4:2

Also, **go into your conversation with the mindset that one of your students might have this sin struggle.** This will help you speak with compassion and grace as you discuss God's truth.

*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

**As Christians we are called to balance living in God's grace and truth.**

### GET THEM TALKING

What are different opinion you've heard about same-sex sexuality?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about what as shared in the video?

**READ ROMANS 1:26-27 and answer the following questions:**

2. This verse is showing us that by God's definition same-sex lust and relations are sin. During the message, they shared that attraction and temptations aren't sin, but lust and sexual behaviors outside of God's design for marriage are sin. In your own words, what are the differences between attraction, temptations, lust, and behaviors?
3. How can we turn to God when we face temptations?

**READ ROMANS 2:4 and answer the following questions:**

4. Does anyone know what repentance means? (Repentance is when you are genuinely sorry and want to change and move in a direction closer to God.)
5. This verse, just a few after the first one we read, says that God is rich in kindness. What are different ways we can we see God's kindness?
6. We all need Jesus. How can remembering that help us reflect God's kindness to others?

### NEXT STEP

Some of the people in the video shared how it was hard for them to talk about their experiences with others.

- 1) If a friend shares they have this struggle, how can you show them love and kindness?
- 2) If you find yourself struggling with these feelings or thoughts, reach out to a parent or godly adult in your life to walk alongside you.

### PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close in prayer.

## SCRIPTURE

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

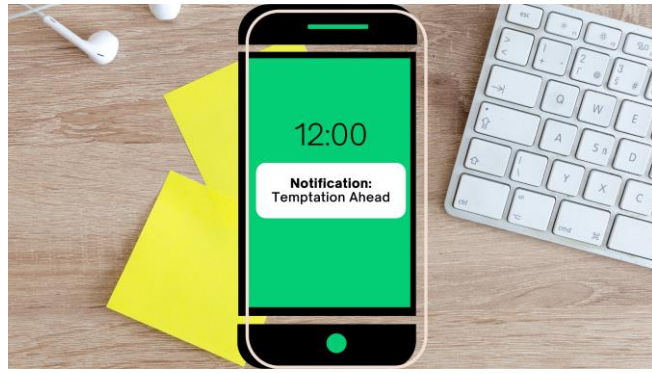
### ROMANS 1:26-27 (NIV)

“Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. <sup>27</sup> In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.”

### ROMANS 2:4 (NIV)

“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?”

**Notification: Temptation Ahead**  
**Week 4 of 4**  
**March 28, 2021**



## LEADER PREP

### GOALS OF SMALL GROUP

- (1) To give students a safe space to ask questions of opposite gender leaders
- (2) To inspire students to take their step in overcoming temptation and realize God is cheering them as they do.

### THINGS TO KNOW

Today's small group time will be very different! Groups will divide into genders as usual, but there will be a panel of opposite gender leaders prepped to answer student's questions. Students hearing from godly men and women of the opposite gender can have a huge impact on students understanding and relating to the opposite sex.

*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

### OPPOSITE GENDER PANEL DISCUSSION

- **INTRODUCE:** Go around the panel and have each leader share their name and a hobby they love.
- **GET THINGS STARTED:** Go back around and have each leader share one quick answer to this question (1 minute or less): If you could share one insight into your gender for the opposite gender to understand, what would it be?
- **GIVE STUDENTS TIME TO ASK THE PANEL QUESTIONS.** Give students a way to share their questions out loud or written down on notecards or typing in the chat, as some students may have different ways they feel comfortable asking questions. The goal for the panel isn't to have perfectly rehearsed answers but to give genuine, godly insight the best they can.

**ALLOW 5 MINUTES AT THE END TO CLOSE YOUR TIME WITH WRAPPING UP BACK TO THE MESSAGE AND CLOSE OUT THE SERIES WITH A CLEAR NEXT STEP:**

### MAIN POINT

**We all need accountability – every step you take is a step in the right direction.**

### NEXT STEP

*Pass out the student handout (details on back). Encourage them to take the handout home, put it somewhere to remind them, and take their next step this week. Remind them YOU care for them and are there for them to talk to if they ever need some to help keep them accountable or cheer them on in their faith.*

### PRAYER GUIDE

Close in prayer.

## SCRIPTURE

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

### **JAMES 5:16 (NIV)**

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

## LEADER CORNER

*Your students will all receive a handout that includes the steps below:*

### 5 Steps to Hold Yourself

#### Accountable

1. Be Honest with yourself and God (Hebrews 4:13)
2. Commit to God's ways (John 14:15)
3. Invite others to keep you accountable (James 5:16)
4. Make a Plan (Set goals and guardrails to overcome temptation in place).
5. Rinse and Repeat (We will all mess up and sin again, but remember God is a loving, forgiving Father cheering you on every step you take towards following Him).