



THE WIN

The world's view of sex is in complete opposition to God's plan for man. Since society has redefined sexual purity and fidelity, the Christ-follower is faced with a decision whether to engage family, friends, or society or to do nothing. The learner will demonstrate understanding of the need to engage family, friends, or society by identifying areas of their life that need forgiveness and then acknowledging others that need forgiveness.

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1-2 minutes READ THIS:

We learned in the message this week that society's view on sexual purity and fidelity is in direct conflict with God's design for relationships. Purity and fidelity are what Scripture teaches yet our society is plagued with a desire for instant satisfaction. It seems that mankind sees the promises of sin as greater than the promises of God.

WARM UP

5-10 minutes WATCH:

Have the group watch the Piers Morgan/Rick Warren video that was sent via RightNow media in the training post.

ASK THIS:

- 1) What is your initial reaction to Rick's response to Piers Morgan's question "How can you espouse genuine equality if you don't allow gay people the same rights to get married as straight people?"
- 2) Growing up what was your view on sexual purity and fidelity in relationships? Has your view changed over time?

Leader Tip: Recognize and be sensitive to the needs of individual group members during this question. No matter your position on gay marriage, remember everyone in your group is on the same team. Consider establishing some ground rules for this session. Perhaps something like: One person speaks at a time. If we move off topic, I will stop the discussion. Try and avoid absolute statements such as "I could never..." or "They always..."

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

35-40 minutes READ THIS:

Given the discussion/debate society is currently having regarding sexual sins, the Christ-follower can easily find themselves in the midst of conflict with others. After all, our society is filled with people who are searching for what makes them happy. Scripture teaches their search will never end as there is no fulfilling happiness outside of a relationship with Jesus Christ. So, what is a Christ-follower to do? How are Christ-followers to engage a society that is hostile towards God's design for relationships? Jesus has some specific instructions for His followers. Jesus

taught in Matthew 7:1-5 that men and women should pay close attention to what is causing them to sin before pointing out the sin in others. Let's read this text together:

HAVE SOMEONE READ:

Matthew 7:1-5

ASK THIS:

- 1) The text in Matthew is clear. We are not to judge. Why are we quick to point out sin in others but slow to deal with sin in our own lives?
- 2) In your view, why do we elevate certain sins above others? (Ex. Adultery, homosexuality, and pornography is seen as worse than lying, lusting, murdering in our hearts)
- 3) In your experience, what are we *really* doing when we elevate certain sins?
- 4) What is there to gain by ignoring our own sin but pointing it out in others?

WATCH THIS:

As a group watch the 7-minute video "Intolerant of the Tolerant" with Mark Driscoll and Glen Beck (sent to you via the RightNow training post)

ASK THIS:

- 1) What is your initial reaction to Mark's final statement "In the name of tolerance, we're experiencing intolerance."
 - a. If you have kids, how do the changing views on sexuality affect your decision-making in raising your kids or influencing young family members?
 - b. What struggles do you foresee for Christ-centered families as they seek to raise their kids to follow Christ?
- 2) Notice Matthew 7:5b. The Christ-follower is to remove the sin in their own life AND is encouraged to help their brother with their own sin. Engaging people in their sin is not always easy or enjoyable. Yet, we as Christ-followers are called to love, care, and accept one another just as Christ accepted us. When engaging people in their sin, what causes you the most difficulty? Why do you think it causes you trouble?
- 3) In the midst of difficult moments what causes you to not give up on those who are struggling in their sin?

ASK THIS:

- 1) What would your life be like today if Christ had given up on you?
- 2) As Christ-followers we cannot rescue people from their sin, but we can point them to Jesus. What are two or three ways you can engage people in their sin and then point them to Jesus?

WATCH THIS:

As a group watch the 3-minute video "Forgiveness" with Matt Chandler.

ASK THIS:

- 1) Do you ever feel that God is simply tolerating you when you sin? Describe those moments with the group.
- 2) How does knowing God is not tolerating you affect your desire to follow Him?
- 3) Consider Matt Chandler's statement "God does not regret saving you." In the midst of your sin do you believe that statement?
- 4) "You have no sin past, present, or future, that has more power than the cross of Jesus Christ." What does this say about God's love for us? For cohabitators? For fornicators? For homosexuals?

DIGGING DEEPER

5-8 **WATCH THIS:**
minutes As a group, watch “When should you confront someone about their sin?” with John Piper. (Sent to you via the RightNow training module)

- 1) What would you add to John’s answer? Why?
- 2) Could someone share an experience they had in confronting someone in their sin?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. - Jesus