

Study Series: The 4 Wills of God

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 Lesson Title: “God’s Will: Abstain from Sexual Sin”

(pp. 106-117)

Session 9

July 31, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: God wills that people abstain from sexual sin.

Focus on this goal: To help adults determine to maintain sexual purity

Key Bible Passage: 1 Thessalonians 4:3

Before the Session

Continue displaying the poster you created for Session 1.

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask if participants use GPS. Ask: If you’re going somewhere familiar and GPS suggests a new route, do you take the new way or stick with the old way? Why? Read Jeremiah 6:16. State: No matter what new ways of sexual expression culture promotes, God’s children must take the ancient path designed from creation.

Read Genesis 2:24 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3. Draw attention to the poster and say: If we want to know God’s unique will for our lives, abstaining from sexual immorality is one place we must start.

Step 2. A Moral Imperative

Ask why people reject God’s standards for sexuality. Discuss Day One, activity 1 (p. 106). Explain the Greek term in 1 Thessalonians 4:3 is an inclusive term for any sexual activity outside the bonds of a marriage between a man and a woman.

Explain “sanctification” means “holiness” and “set apart.” Explore how abstaining from sexual immorality sets believers apart in this world.

Declare believers must take what God’s Word says about sexuality seriously. Discuss Day One, activity 2 (p. 107). Request a volunteer read the Day One paragraph (p. 107) beginning “Jesus is clear . . . .” Use Day One remarks (pp. 107-108) to analyze the correlation between faith and sex.

Step 3. Engaged or Married

State those who have faith in Christ, but reject God’s universal will of sexual purity, should not expect Him to reveal His unique will to them. Relate the Day Two illustration (pp. 108-109) of the couple seeking counsel.

Discuss Day Two, activity 1A (p. 109). Ask a volunteer to read 1 Peter 4:3-5. Evaluate why choosing to live for God’s will in the area of sexuality involves suffering. Ask: What must we keep in mind when this world slanders us for our stance on sexual purity?

Remind adults God’s will is good, pleasing, and perfect (Rom. 12:2) and there are good reasons God wills we abstain from sexual immorality. Explore the obvious good of abstaining from sexual immorality for those who are married. Discuss Day Two, activity 2 (p. 110).

Invite a volunteer to read Romans 13:11-14. Explain this passage, like 1 Peter 4:1-5, addresses a lifestyle of sexual and alcoholic excess that came out of idol worship. Ask: What is the idolatry on which our culture’s sexual excess is based?

Assert: We need to consistently consider whether we are worshiping any of these idols—that’s one way we stay awake in our faith and our marriages. Determine specific ways believers can discard sexual deeds of darkness and put on the Lord Jesus instead.

Step 4. No Exceptions

Relate Rob’s (Day Three, p. 110) radical steps to discard deeds of darkness after he committed adultery. Discuss Day Three, activity 1 (p. 110). Point out: We can all probably find ourselves in that list in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and that’s sobering. However, none of those sins, including sexual immorality, are unforgivable nor do they have to define us, we can be clean and declared not guilty in Christ.

Invite a volunteer to read the Day Three paragraph (pp. 110-111) beginning “Some readers could experience . . . .” Note engaged people might think they are exceptions to this stated will of God. Use remarks in Day Three (pp. 111-112) to examine why God instructs engaged people to abstain from “fornication.” Emphasize the Day Three pull quote (p. 112).

Step 5. Living Together

Discuss Day Four, activity 1 (p. 113). Remark that because sexual immorality is so hurtful it shouldn’t surprise us that God disciplines His children when they disregard His will.

Read the Day Four paragraph (p. 113) beginning “God the Father’s permanent . . . .”

Discuss Day Four, activity 2 (p. 113).

Step 6. Don’t Hurt Yourself

Ask why single Christians particularly need 1 Corinthians 10:13’s encouragement. Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 114). Explain the statements in 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 are probably cultural slogans local Christians adopted to justify doing whatever they wanted with their bodies.

Analyze what makes sexual sin uniquely harmful. State: Since sexual immorality assaults our oneness with Christ, we must run from it. Determine why believers must flee (rather than fight) sexual immorality, and specific ways we can do so.

Discuss Day Five, activity 2 (p. 115).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Remark this lesson can cause those who struggle with sexual purity to feel shame, and those who don’t struggle with this issue to feel superior. But there is no room for judgment in doing God’s will.

Point out from the poster that believing, giving thanks, and submitting are also God’s will. State: We all need and can receive grace through Jesus. That is what empowers us to know and do God’s will from the heart.

Close in prayer.

