**1. Motivate**

A video introduction is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/1_2valhndm>

If no Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/y3juqpgh>

How is marriage commonly portrayed in the media?

* lightly – it’s OK but not all that important
* can be between people of the same gender
* divorce is common
* a man and woman live together without being married
* a boy asks a girl to move in together
* premarital relations are common
* it’s not married until “death do us part”, but until “we don’t get along”
* adultery is portrayed as exciting

**2. Transition**

The concept of marriage as God intended is not common to our culture.

* God intended one man, one woman for life.
* Physical intimacy is reserved for one man and woman within the covenant of marriage.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Honor Marriage

Listen for Jesus’ clarification.

Exodus 20:14 (NIV) "You shall not commit adultery. Matthew 5:27-28 (NIV) "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

What are some concerns at the heart of the seventh commandment?

* it is important to stay faithful to one’s spouse
* adultery is damaging to whole families
* it can (and does) destroy the fabric of society
* marriage is used in scripture to illustrate our intimate relationship of Christ with the church (His bride)

Why was obedience to this command critical to Israel’s future?

* if families fail, then culture begins to break down
* if people do not remain faithful to their spouses, then they are not being faithful with God
* if they are unfaithful in the most important of human relationships, society begins to fall apart

What are the consequences when trust is broken in a relationship?

* the person cheated upon is devastated
* the children often blame themselves
* the family relationships God intended are destroyed

According to Jesus, how does adultery start?

* with lust in one’s heart
* looking at someone with lustful desires
* entertaining lustful thoughts, within the imagination
* more than just admiring good looks
* these thoughts lead to plans to act – beginning with a friendly interchange
* then the actions result in the actual adultery or violation of one’s marriage vows

Why are people willing to harbor and tolerate lust in their hearts?

* think if no one knows, it is not a problem
* (like if a tree falls in the forest and no one is there to hear it, maybe it doesn’t make a sound)
* just looking won’t lead to anything else – it’s the actual act that is sin, not just thinking about it

“Killer” : ladies’ man from Beetle Bailey

When does looking at someone become inappropriate?

* when your imagination goes in the wrong direction
* when you fantasize about wrong actions and attitudes

What is wrong with the argument, “It’s OK to look as long as you don’t touch”?

* an appropriate statement when shopping for antiques
* dangerous when viewing with fantasy or lust
* it is the first step down a “slippery slope” which leads to flagrant sin

Yielding to the temptation of lust can become the precursor to involvement in the sin of adultery. What are some ways believers can guard their hearts to withstand the progressive invitations of sin?

* never dabble in sin
* recall James 4:7 (KJV) *Submit yourselves therefore to God.*
* *Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
* consider Psalm 119:11 (KJV) *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*  ⇨ memorize scripture
* always ask yourself, does this action or attitude honor God
* how will this action impact others around me (spouse, children, grandchildren)
* pray for God’s guidance and His protection of your mind
* put on your spiritual armor … especially the helmet of salvation (to guard your mind) and the breastplate of righteousness (to guard your heart)

3.2 Guard Your Thoughts

Listen for actions that lead to temptation.

2 Samuel 11:1-3a (NIV) In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. 2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, 3 and David sent someone to find out about her.

What words and phrases in verse 1 define the setting for this incident in David’s life.

* it’s springtime
* it’s military campaign time – normally kings lead their armies into war
* David didn’t go … sent Joab with the army
* they are besieging Ammonite city of Rabbah

What happened one night when David couldn’t sleep?

* got up and walked around on the roof of his palace
* from the roof saw a woman bathing
* he saw that she was very beautiful

In what way did David use his authority inappropriately?

* saw a pretty girl, husband not in sight
* sent someone to pursue this was
* wanted to know if she was available or not

Agree or disagree? … "To be tempted is to sin"

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agree | Disagree |
| * if you were living right, you wouldn't be tempted
* once you are a real Christian you shouldn't have tempting thoughts or be in tempting situations
 | * even Jesus was tempted
* it is not the temptation that was wrong
* it is yielding to the temptation which becomes sin
 |

David was tempted … why should we anticipate temptations?

* we are still human … we still live in our mortal bodies
* Satan repeatedly tries to get us off track spiritually

What are some ways we can avoid even some temptations?

* don’t be somewhere you shouldn’t be
* if you struggle with alcohol, don’t go into a bar
* even if you *don’t* struggle with alcohol, avoid situations where people want to include you in their drinking
* same thing with sexual temptation … don’t go places, don’t view things that you know will result in temptation
* Scripture says “flee youthful lusts” and “Resist the devil and he will flee from you”

How can we guard our thoughts with faithfulness and purity?

* fill you mind with good things … scripture
* choose your entertainment carefully
* as God’s Holy Spirit to live out the Fruit of the Spirit in your life, especially goodness, faithfulness, and self-control

 3.3 Honor the Commitments of Others

Listen for David’s tragic decision.

2 Samuel 1:3b – 5 (NIV) The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" 4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. 5 The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

What information did David’s servant share in identifying the woman?

* name was Bathsheba
* daughter of Eliam
* wife of Uriah the Hittite

Why should that information have caused David to reconsider what seemed to be in his mind?

* she’s married
* Uriah known to be a faithful and courageous soldier
* he doesn’t need another woman … has multiple wives of his own

At what points did David have the opportunity to bail out?

* he could have quit watching her bathe
* he could have not inquired as to who she was
* he could have not invite her to the palace
* he could have not had sex with her
* he could have taken responsibility for the pregnancy and dealt with the family

Why do you think he persisted at each juncture?

* continued to yield to successive temptations
* he was weak
* at each point he could have confessed, repented
* he was stubborn
* being king went to his head – he had authority and abused it
* refused to recognize that what he was doing was wrong

What can these passages teach us about the progression of sin in how we deal with other people?

* temptation presents itself – “I could use that person to \_\_\_”
* we entertain the temptation – “How could I con them into it?”
* we partake of it a little bit
* the little bit causes a desire for more – now we are definitely sinning
* then the sin is rationalized – “He/she had it coming … deserved to be taken advantage of”
* then we try to cover up the sin
* causes more sins

How can we anticipate temptations and stop ourselves from succumbing to temptations?

* know that you are not immune
* don't put yourself in situations where you know you could be tempted
* flee temptations – run the other way (sometimes literally)
* continually ask for, receive God's help

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Examine your heart.

* Being a senior adult does not mean you no longer deal with temptation and sin.
* Honor for marriage, for the relationships of others begins in heart and mind.
* Turn from any involvement with lust, pornography, or inappropriate feelings toward others.

Examine your actions.

* If you are guilty of the sin of adultery (either emotionally or physically) in the past or present, repent fully before God and turn your heart away from this sin and toward obedience to Christ.
* If you have not committed sin in this regard, thank God and ask Him to guide you in a life that continually honors marriage.

Honor.

* Seek ways to honor marriage—both your own and the marriages of others.
* This applies to all regardless of their marital status.
* Identify specific things you can do this week to show honor to yourself, your spouse (if you are married), and God.
* Identify ways you can honor others for their faithfulness in marriage.

We need advice for our future together. To help us determine this important quote, unscramble each of the clue phrases. They are from our Scripture passages today. Then copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number. If you get stuck, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y3juqpgh> . Now that we’re a family, we’ll go there for inspiring Family Activities. You’ll find them helpful also.

