

WISDOM PURSUES WHAT IS PURE

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: LIVING IN WISDOM / SERIES: PROVERBS

BIG TRUTH: WISDOM PURSUES WHAT IS PURE

Matthew 5:8; Psalm 119:9; 1 Timothy 4:12; Romans 13:14; Philippians 4:8

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 5:8; PHILIPPIANS 4:8; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4:8

"Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

BIG IDEAS

- We pursue purity in relationships by guarding our heart and mind against temptation.
- We pursue purity in relationships by not awakening love until its time.
- We pursue purity by seeing marriage as God's beautiful design for intimacy and sexual pleasure.

BIBLE PASSAGE: SONG OF SOLOMON

KNEEL: LIVING IN WISDOM

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28) and to use our influence to lead others to do the same. We know that as we pursue a life of worship, we will pursue a life of both wisdom and mission. Throughout this year we will study and pursue the wisdom of God through the book of Proverbs and the mission of God through the book of Acts, and we will learn how both of these things must inform and shape our influence as Jesus followers!

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- What wisdom is.
- Why wisdom is worthy to be pursued.
- How to grow in wisdom.



Every student should feel...

- Love for God who gives all wisdom.
- Satisfied and secure in the wisdom of God.
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone.



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the book of Proverbs one time each month.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Repent of the ways they have not pursued God and His wisdom.



Every student should want...

- To fear the Lord and keep His commandments.
- To live their lives in pursuit of true wisdom.
- To guard their heart from all impurity.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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Purity is possible because of Jesus.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8

- We are made clean through a repentance and faith in Jesus. When we have saving faith, we are given new hearts and these pure hearts are able to worship Jesus. This purity is possible only because of Jesus.
- We can pursue pure things because Jesus makes a way for us to do that. When He died on the cross and paid our sin debt, He made a way for us to understand what is pure and for us to pursue what is pure. He is the reason we can be pure and pursue pure things.

Wisdom pursues purity and seeks to be pure.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Phil. 4:8

- The wise know that seeking to be pure is seeking to be like Jesus. Those who are wise also know that pursuing purity is part of becoming like Jesus.
- When we seek to be like Him and seek His truth, we will seek to be pure. We will place our minds and hearts on pure things because He is pure and holy.

Wisdom rejects impurity.

"Flee from sexual immorality...So glorify God in your body." 1 Cor. 6:18, 20

- Those who seek to be wise will abstain from sexual immorality. They will seek to live holy lives that are free from sexual sin. Wisdom leads a person to reject sexual immorality and to pursue a holy and righteous sexual life.
- Wisdom doesn't just pursue purity, but it rejects impurity. Wisdom stands on the side of righteousness and holiness. It chooses purity and holiness.

BIG IDEA #1: WE PURSUE PURITY IN RELATIONSHIPS BY GUARDING OUR HEART AND MIND AGAINST TEMPTATION.¹**[THIS]**

Pursuing purity is part of pursuing holiness. When we pursue holiness, we will seek to be pure. Our relationships require that we seek purity and remain pure, and they prove to be the most challenging times for our purity. Interacting with others will often challenge us and ignite our flesh natures in various ways. Part of living for Jesus and dying to ourselves is a pursuit of purity in our relationships. This means that we pursue a purity of our hearts and minds. When we seek to have pure relationships, we must first seek to guard our hearts and minds against the temptation to sin. Temptations are all around us and they are especially prevalent in our relationships. Most often we will fall to the temptation to impurity when we are in a relationship. This is because close relationships appeal to our hearts and minds and often cause us to let down our guard against our flesh nature. Wisdom teaches us to always stay on guard against the temptation to impurity when we are in relationships.

[THEREFORE]

How does the intimacy of relationships tempt us to not live pure lives?

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 and Hebrews 13:4 teach us the importance of seeking purity in our relationships. They teach us that relationships are intimate and this intimacy leads us to a closeness that is tempting. It's this closeness that tempts us to fall to impurity.

[THIS]

Guarding our hearts and minds in relationships is challenging and hard. Often in relationships to grow closer, we must become vulnerable and transparent. This doesn't always lend itself to protecting ourselves. When we are emotionally and spiritually vulnerable with someone, we open ourselves up to greater temptation to impurity because we feel especially close to someone. To guard our hearts and minds, we must take our thoughts captive and keep our hearts focused on God. We must focus on righteous things and pure things. We must put away thoughts of impure things. To do this, we must pay attention to the situations we put ourselves in. We cannot put ourselves in difficult or tempting situations and think that we can guard our hearts and minds. We must proactively work to avoid temptation.

[THEREFORE]

What are some situations you should avoid to keep from falling to temptation in a relationship?

When we are in personal relationships, we should stay away from situations that lend themselves to sinning. We should seek to be above reproach and to flee any appearance of evil as 1 Thessalonians 5:22 tells us. Luke 22:40 and 1 Peter 5:8 also teach us to resist temptation, which means that we should avoid the situations that lend themselves to temptation.

What are some specific ways you can guard your heart and mind from impure things?

Romans 12:2 and Proverbs 4:23 remind us to guard our hearts and our minds. When we intentionally focus on the things of the Lord and set our minds on heavenly things, we will take steps toward guarding our hearts and minds. When we do this, we will avoid temptation.

1. 2 Corinthians 10:5: We are called to take our thoughts captive and this keeps us from giving in to temptation.

BIG IDEA #2: WE PURSUE PURITY IN RELATIONSHIPS BY NOT AWAKENING LOVE UNTIL ITS TIME.²

[THIS]

The pursuit of purity in our relationships is an endeavor that we must make always. We cannot let our guards down and we must always work towards purity in all relationships. This is challenging because purity in relationships is countercultural to the world's idea of what is allowed in relationships. The world says that anything is allowed, while God's Word tell us to resist this temptation and to remain holy and pure in His sight. Purity is not something that comes naturally to us because of our flesh natures. It is something that we must work toward. In our culture, we can pursue purity in relationships by resisting the urge to follow the cultural idea of awakening love before its time. Often, when we are very young, the idea of finding love is awakened and we spend far too much of our time pursuing love in relationships when we should be pursuing Christ.

[THEREFORE]

What is the danger in pursuing relationships more than we pursue Christ?

Matthew 6:33 tells us to seek God's kingdom first. When we seek anything else above seeking Christ, we are missing our purpose and reason on earth. This will always lead to dissatisfaction with our lives. Psalm 16:11 and Psalm 17:15 teach us that we do find satisfaction in Christ always.

[THIS]

When love is awakened before its time, it brings with it all sorts of trouble and heartache. When we fall prey to believing that we need a significant other and that a relationship is what will fulfill us, we miss our true purpose. Awakening love before its time leads us down the dangerous path of living impure lives and giving into impurity in our relationships. We place ourselves in situations that lead to sinful thoughts and actions. If we remain pure, we will wait for the right time for love. We will pursue God and His truth. Wisdom teaches us to wait for the right time for love and not to pursue it too soon or too quickly. Wisdom teaches us to guard ourselves and to wait for when we are mature enough and ready for love. We know we are ready when we can be in a relationship that honors God.

[THEREFORE]

How is waiting to be in a relationship countercultural to what the world tells us to do?

The world focuses on doing what makes us happy when it makes us happy regardless of the outcome. God tells us to glorify Him. Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, and 8:4 tell us to wait for love until it is time for love. When we do this, we will stand out and apart from the rest of the world, but we will glorify God.

What are the challenges in waiting for love?

When the world tells us to seek love and to do whatever makes us happy, it can be challenging to wait to awaken love. Following God's plan for us can be challenging and difficult, yet, the best thing for us is to wait for God's timing. Isaiah 40:31 reminds us to wait for the Lord because His timing is the best.

2. Song: 2:7: In this Song of Songs, there is a warning not to stir up love before its time.

BIG IDEA #3: WE PURSUE PURITY BY SEEING MARRIAGE AS GOD'S BEAUTIFUL DESIGN FOR INTIMACY AND SEXUAL PLEASURE.³

[THIS]

Marriage has morphed and changed over time because of the world's brokenness. Marriage is God's design and plan for mankind. From the beginning, God designed marriage as the way in which man and woman would enjoy one another in an intimate way. He designed marriage as the way for a man and woman to righteously enjoy sexual pleasure. Marriage has morphed into a concept that looks a lot different than what God has designed. It has changed into something more and less at the same time. When we pursue purity, we must choose to see marriage as God designed it, not as the world continues to define it. Focusing on God's design for marriage helps us pursue purity in our lives. When we choose this focus and reject the world's view of marriage, we will pursue what is pure in our relationships and live pure lives for the glory of God.

[THEREFORE]

What is the world's view of marriage? How is this different from God's design for marriage?

In Genesis 1:27, we see that God created man and woman. In the creation account, we also see that God created the first family, the first marriage, when He joined the man and woman together. Ephesians 5, we see that marriage is a picture of Christ and His church.

[THIS]

Marriage as God has designed it brings the most glory to God and pleasure to mankind. When we walk in a marriage as God has intended for us to do, we will enjoy the pleasure that He allows in marriage. We will experience the intimacy and sexual pleasure that are designed for marriage, and these will bring God glory. Living outside of this design leads to heartache and sorrow. Seeing marriage as God designed it leads us in a different direction than the world's view. It leads us to pursue purity and wait for marriage to have sex. It leads us to value purity and resisting temptation because it brings God glory. Wisdom teaches us to reject the world's idea of marriage and to pursue purity by pursuing God's design.

[THEREFORE]

How does marriage offer us a greater intimacy than just a relationship?

Song of Solomon 6:3 shows us that in marriage the intimacy we enjoy is greater and better than just a relationship. When we follow God's design for marriage, we can enjoy a deeper intimacy with someone than if we follow the world's idea of marriage.

Why is waiting for marriage to enjoy sexual pleasure better than following the world's idea?

Song of Solomon 7:1-10 shows us the beauty of waiting for marriage to enjoy sexual pleasure. When we enjoy sex within marriage, we can enjoy it without shame. This leads to an intimacy and closeness that is only possible when done according to God's design.

3. Song 2:16: *When the time is right and we are married, we can enjoy the goodness of God's design for sexual pleasure.*