

Grace

INTRODUCTION

1) What is grace?

Some answers:

- a) undeserved forgiveness
- b) an "in-spite-of" kind of love
- c) acceptance even without perfect performance
- d) real love

(Give some examples and analogies from your own life)

2) Where does grace come from?

a) A Christian receives the substitution of Jesus' righteousness for their sinfulness

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

b) After baptism, the blood of Jesus covers over my sins, allowing me to be justified: "just-as -if-I'd-never-sinned"

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Input = Our Part		Output = God's View
Sin	G	Forgiveness
Imperfection	R	
	A	Perfection
	C	
Filthy Heart	E	A Sinless Heart

Bottom line : Grace is almost too good to be true, but it is!

The goal of this study is to help you to see the real God who loves you and how valuable you are to him. He valued you at the cost of his only son, whom he gave up so that there could be grace to forgive your sins and restore your relationship with him.

1. Psalm 103:8-10

*8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.
9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;
10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.*

What are some sins in your life? What do you deserve for them?

- a) Punishment (grounding, removal of privileges, jail, etc/.)
- b) not being trusted by people

Bottom line : God sees everything that we do and think, and he knows what we deserve yet, it is his grace that gives us forgiveness rather than punishment.

2. Romans 8:1-2

*1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*

What does "no condemnation" mean?

- a) no punishment
- b) not feeling "in the doghouse"
- c) not feeling like God others are looking down on you

Bottom line : We can never earn grace. Grace comes through Jesus' sacrifice for our sins and frees us from the condemnation that we deserve because of our sins.

3. 1 Corinthians 15:9-11

*9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.
11 Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.*

What is Paul because of grace?

- a) a forgiven man
- b) a Christian

What effect did God's grace have on Paul?

- a) he worked hard for God
- b) He lived his whole life. For Christ (philippians 1:21)
- c) He was a very grateful man.

Bottom line : grace completely changes our lives.

PERSONAL HEART CHECK QUESTIONS

- a. What should God's grace produce in you? Does it?
- b. How should you respond to God's grace? Will you?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

a. Decide that you will live for God because of his grace and not to earn his grace. Write a one-page letter to God because of his grace and not to earn his grace.

b. Write a one- page letter to God expressing you understanding of his grace (using a personal example from your life) and your gratitude for his grace.

c. Write a one-page essay describing the areas that you need to grow in and what you will initiate to see them change.

To the leaders of the study

The understanding of grace is the foundation for a love-motivated relationship with God, rather than one that is works-motivated. Often teens raised in the church can be little Pharisees the making, knowing the requirements of the Christian life, but missing the heart motivation. Similarly, Overachievers (in the world or in the kingdom) are valued by others and values themselves based on their performance.

The goal of this study is to build security, self-esteem and worth based on God's forgiving love and not on their Christian duty or perfect performance. Your personal examples and analogies will make the difference in their understanding of a potentially broad and complex concept.

Honesty

INTRODUCTION

1) Why do teens lie?

Some answers:

- a) Afraid of getting in trouble
- b) Want to look good in front of other
- c) Ashamed and embarrassed about something- leader of the study should share some lies they have told and why they told them - even from their teen years.

2) Who do teens lie to?

- a) authority figures(parents, teachers, ministry leaders, etc)
- b) friends
- c) siblings

3) What do they lie about?

- a) performance (i.e. report cards, chores, Bible reading, sports performance, home work ,etc)
- b) treatment of others

The goal of this study is to get you to see that honesty is what God wants from you and that when you are honest, you are like God.

1. Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24

1 For the director of music. Of David. A psalm. O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

5 You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

*15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.
19 If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you bloodthirsty men!*

Name some different things God knows about you? Why does it make sense to be honest all the time?

- a) God knows and sees when we even just think about lying.
- b) God knows and sees when we tell half-truths, when we exaggerate, when we're deceitful and when we blatantly lie.

Bottom line : God knows everything about us. Lying to others instantly leads to lying to ourselves and ultimately, lying to God.

2. John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

What can you learn from this Scripture?

- a) lying is Satan's language
- b) Satan is the father of lies.

Bottom line : Satan is behind every lie.

3. Mark 7:22

..greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

How would you define "deceit"?

- a) shading the truth
- b) not telling the whole truth , usually to make yourself or a situation look better
- c) not saying what you are really thinking, to being open(giving answers like 'fine' 'okay' or 'I don't know' when you there's more in your heart than those)

Bottom line : Saying what you are really thinking is very important because that's the only way you can get the spiritual help you need to be able to change your heart.

4. Revelation 21:8

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Does God take lying seriously? Absolutely yes!

Bottom line : Liars go to hell.

PERSONAL HEART - CHECK QUESTIONS

When are you most tempted to lie?

Are you willing to change your life and be totally honest all the time?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

James 5:16

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

When you lie:

- a) Confess it to the person you lied to
- b) Confess it to your parent(s) and/or teen leader.
- c) Tell them that you are sorry and you want to change.
- d) Then, go on your way happily and joyfully because you did what right before God.

Write out one page about what you've learned from this study, some things you have done or will do differently because of this study, and how all this will help you be a disciple someday or how it will help you be a better disciple if you already are one.

To the leaders of the study

Honesty is a critical character trait to have as a teenager. One of the tendencies in the sinful nature of a teenager is to lie. Lying manifests itself in half-truths. Exaggeration and deceit. The goal of this study is to free from the trap of lying and to help them see that honesty is absolutely God's way.

The more open you are about your life, the more open the teenager will be.

Look in the mirror

1. Jeremiah 17:9-10

*9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?
10 "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."*

Do you believe your heart is deceitful? In what ways?

They might have heard many spiritual conversations, but their life is the acid test.

2. Proverbs 12:1

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.

Do you love discipline? How do you get disciplined? Do you want to be stupid?

3. Proverbs 16:5

The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

What does detest mean? (Think about somebody serving you a plate of dog doo. How would you react? That's how God reacts toward you pride.

To the leaders of the study

[Bible Study For Kingdom Kids] These kids have not seen their own heart many times. They are deceived with who they really are. Many compliments, overhearing counseling over the years, being around for along time, having a fairly sheltered life all contribute to the hardening of their heart and the lack of knowing who they really are before god.

Relationship with the family

INTRODUCTION

1) What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses in your relationships with your family?

Some answer:

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
a) cheerful	a) irresponsible
b) loving	b) disrespectful
c) affectionate	c) independent

Proverbs 23:22-26

22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

23 Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

24 The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.

25 May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!

26 My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways,

2) What do you think will bring the greatest joy to your parent(s)?

- a) listening to them
- b) living by the truth
- c) changing how you live at home

The goal joy this study is for you to change your dynamics in your relationship with your family. The results will bring greater joy to you family.

1. John 19:25-27

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son,"

27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

As Jesus was dying on the cross, what are some words you would use to describe how he looked after his family?

- a) compassion
- b) love
- c) care

Bottom line : if Jesus shows that kind of care for his family, especially making sure his mother was taken care of, while dying on a cross, we need to daily care

about our own families by being righteous and loving toward them.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

12 Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.

13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

Who should you respect?

- a) those who work hard
- b) Those over you in the lord (Your parents these categories!)

How can you show greater respect for your parent(s)?

- a) listen right away
- b) obey right away
- c) verbally express to them that you love and respect them frequently or write it to them in cards or letters

Bottom line : You've been given so much by your parents. You need to give back by always showing the respect they deserve and God expects you to have for them.

3. Ephesians 4:29-5:1

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children

How do you get along with each sibling? (Go through each one) In your relationship with your sibling(s), what should you get rid of?

- a) bitterness
- b) rage
- c) anger
- d) any bad feelings

How should you treat your sibling(s)?

- a) with encouragement
- b) with kindness
- c) with compassion

Bottom line : In God's eyes, there is no such thing as sibling rivalry. You must treat all your physical brothers and sisters with so much love that this love is only surpassed by your love for God and your parents(s).

PERSONAL HEART - CHECK QUESTIONS

- a. What needs to change the most in your relationship with your family?
- b. How will you go about changing these things starting today?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Apologize specifically to your sibling(s) about how you've fallen short and express to them how you want to be different.

Write a one- page letter to your parent(s) about how grateful you are for them, and how you will specifically change to show a greater respect for them

a. Ephesians 6:1-2

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise--

b.1 Thessalonians 5:13

Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

Obey, honor and hold them in the highest regard.

To the leaders of the study

Family relationships are second only to your relationship with God. It is an absolute must that a teen's heart for their family is in the right place. There needs to be a deep abiding love and respect for their parents(s) and a strong, inseparable love for each sibling. From this study their needs to be a distinct change in the teenager's relationship with members of their family.

Note: This is not a study about the parent(s) or sibling(s) weaknesses. Hear the teenager out if they feel the need to voice some of the weaknesses so you don't frustrate them. Then you, the teen leader, go back and respectfully talk those issues out with his parent(s). Strongly emphasize to the teenager that this study will focus specifically on what he needs to change.

Respect

INTRODUCTION

1. What does respect mean?

Some answers:

- a. Look up to
- b. Admire
- c. Listen to

The answer : To feel or show honor or esteem for; hold in high regard.

The goal of this study is to help you see how important respect is to God and to reach you who needs to be respected.

1. Mark 12:28-30

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Best place to start is respect for God.

How do you show respect for God? By loving God will you've got? How do you love God with all your heart and soul (emotions)? Mind and strength (actions)?

- a) share your heart with him in prayer
- b) do all God asks of you
- c) serving God (i.e. by being a servant to others)
- d) finding out, by studying, how to be with God in heaven
- e) constantly think about God and what Jesus would do in every situation

Bottom line : you show respect for God by honoring him by who you are what you say and how you live. Your respect for God will directly cause you to respect others, as he commands.

2. Ephesians 6:1-3

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise--

3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Respect your parent(s)

How should you honor and show respect for your parents?

- a) obey them right away without complaining
- b) love them unconditionally
- c) listen attentively and look them in the eyes when they speak
- d) be open with them (share your heart with them)
- e) be open with them (share your heart with them)
- f) appreciate and value them for who they are and all they do for you
- g) have respectful body language

Bottom line : Any disrespect for your parents needs to change. The result of respect is that it brings joy to God and joy to your family.

3. 1 Peter 2:17

Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

Name others you absolutely need to respect?

- a) sibling(s)
- b) leaders in the church
- c) teachers in school
- d) coaches of athletic teams
- e) policemen and other government officials
- f) people running clubs/ activities you are part of

4. 1 Thessalonians 5:12

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.

Why should you respect spiritual leaders?

- a) they've been given a responsibility and you should make their responsibility a joy
- b) it builds your spiritual character to respect others
- c) God says so

5. Romans 13:1-7

1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to

bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

7 Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Respecting rule, regulation, laws and guidelines Why wouldn't you follow these?

- a) to have an unfair advantage over someone
- b) because you're rebellious

Why should you follow these?

- a) God expects you to
- b) it builds your spiritual character
- c) you contribute to order rather than participate in disorder

Name some rules, regulations, laws and guidelines you need to follow at home, at school and at other people's houses.

Bottom line : The fact of life is that there are rules, regulations, laws and guidelines to follow everywhere you go. God expects us to follow them, as long it doesn't contradict the Bible. You must repent of any disrespectful attitude in any of these areas.

Overall bottom line :

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Respecting others and respecting rules will show how spiritually mature you are. Also, the more you respect people and rules, the more respect you will get back from others.

PERSONAL HEART-CHECK QUESTIONS

- a. Would God say he feels like you respect him? Would your parents?
- b. To whom are you most tempted to be disrespectful? How will you repent?
- c. What rules, regulations, laws or guidelines are you most tempted not to follow/ how will you repent/

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Write out one page about what you've learned from this study and what you will do differently because of what you learned.

To the leaders of the study

In today society respect is a sad state of affairs. We see a lack of respect in the classroom, in athletics and against those given authority by the government. But that's the world ad its different for those who love God. There must be an uncompromising, relentless expectation of young teenagers to respect those they are called to respect. Every aspect of disrespect must be challenged in their lives from this study. But deep in their hearts they do want to respect others. Help draw it out of them.

Note to leader of study : if a teen has extreme problem with respect, he may have an extreme problem with respecting himself. Please do an appropriate follow-up study on that subject.

PURITY

INTRODUCTION

1. Have you, or has anyone you know, had food poisoning? Do you know what happens?

Since the food is contaminated and poisonous, the body does every thing possible to flush the poison out! It's really gross, but if the poison is not removed the person could die.

2. What are some ways teenagers impure themselves in every day life?

- a) lustful thoughts/ fantasies and " the second look"
- b) watching movies or TV shows with sexually explicit scenes and themes
- c) reading pornographic, magazines, or visiting pornographic sites on the Internet
- d) Listening to or telling dirty jokes
- e) Flirting (desire attention from the opposite sex and acting or speaking in such a way as to get it)
- f) Sexual immorality
- g) Masturbation

The goal of this study is to help to take hold of God's conviction about purity of heart and life. It will also help to see that, following God's plan, is always the most fulfilling in the long run. Being contaminated and poison by the world will damage your soul. God has a great plan for your life and is excited about watching it unfold for you in his time!

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

4 that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable,

5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God;

6 and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.

7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

What are some things we need to do to stay pure?

- a) avoid sexual immorality
- b) control our own bodies

Bottom line : God has high standards for us to be totally different from people in the world we need to have the same expectations for ourselves as God does. He doesn't call us to anything that is not possible. When we are impure, we hurt God and ourselves and, if someone else is involved, them.

2. 2 Timothy 2:22

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

What are the evil desires of youth?

Sensual pleasures like sex and drugs and reckless abandon.

Why do you think God says these evil desires have to do with youth?

- a) They are new experiences so they appeal to curiosity
- b) Teenage bodies are changing sexually.
- c) The young wild, free, "Indestructible" mentality can take hold of young people

What does it mean to "flee" from something?

To desperately runaway usually from some thing dangerous (a murderer, etc.,)

What does it mean to "pursue" something?

To go after it with all your heart

Bottom line: We have the right to choose where we spend our energy in life - whether on worldly goals or on spiritual ones. God calls us to runaway from what are human nature screams for us to go after. Destructive, worldly desires activities and thoughts. We must instead go after the challenging of being Godly in a Godless world.

3. Ephesians 5:3-5

3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

How much is a hint?

What does God say to replace impurity with?

What does it mean to have no inheritance?

Bottom line: God takes purity very seriously.

PERSONAL HEART CHECK QUESTIONS

How are you different from your friends in the world?

You are willing to change in your life, thoughts and habits to be radically pure all the time.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

a. Psalm 119:9

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

Remember that you are tempted, the word will help you to resist. Memorise scripture about purity so that you can be ready when you are tempted with the sin.

b. James 5:16

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

Confess your sins with someone who can help you. Remember God loves you and forgives you. Next time ask advice about movies, times with boys and girls together, dates etc.,

Write out a one-page essay about what you have learned from this study and how you were convicted. Write down how you are personally going to change and something you will do differently from now on.

To the leaders of the study

Our society exalts sexual immorality, and its raging out of control. Teenagers have hormones that are newly active, and they can let them rage out of control. However, God has made it clear that he wants us all to let the natural sexual desires remain dormant until they can be expressed within the marriage relationship.

In the Bible the term "purity" is most often referring to sexual purity, but it is also used to refer to being free from contamination by worldliness in general. Contaminated water is undrinkable, just as contaminated heart is unacceptable to God. The purpose of this study is to help teenagers to understand and embrace Gods conviction about purity. Share some of your challenges with purity when your were a teen.

Righteousness - (No Matter What)

INTRODUCTION

1) Describe "righteousness" in your own words?

Some answers;

- a) doing the right thing
- b) being obedient to God and parents
- c) obeying laws

2) When is it most challenging to be righteous?

- a) during peer pressure
- b) when things are hard
- c) when you just don't feel like obeying
- d) when you don't understand

The goal of this study is to help you to biblically define righteousness and to help you see you need to be righteous in every situation no matter what.

1. 1 John 3:7

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Who is righteous?

- a) Those who do what is right.
- b) Those who are not led astray.
- c) Those who imitate Jesus.

2. James 2:21-22

21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

What made Abraham righteous?

- a) He offered Isaac
- b) He obeyed God.
- c) He obeyed with faith.

Bottom line ∴ To be righteous is to do what is right and obey God's commands.

3. Matthew 26:38-39

38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My

Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

How was Jesus feeling?

Overwhelmed, sad or sorrowful, "this is hard", "I do not want this'

How did Jesus respond to his feelings?

- a. He was open about them in prayer.
- b. He was willing to do God's will.
- c. He made a decision to obey, no matter what.

Bottom line : we must do what is right even when we do not feel like obeying God.

4. Acts 5:28-29

28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

Why were the apostles being persecuted?

- a) They filled the city with the words of Jesus.
- b) They made people feel guilty about hurting Jesus.

How did they handle the persecution?

- a) They were bold.
- b) They obeyed God no matter what.
- c) They did what was right or righteous

Bottom line : In the face of persecution or peer pressure, we must do what God says.

PERSONAL HEART - CHECK QUESTIONS

- a. Is righteousness a daily goal in your life?
- b. What areas are you most tempted to be unrighteous?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Start every morning by seeking God first.

- a) Pray to be righteous
- b) Be open about areas of weakness.
- c) When unsure of what to do, ask, " what would Jesus do?"

Write out one page about what you've learned from this study about righteousness, some things you have done or will do differently because of this study; and how this will help you be a disciple someday.

To the leaders of the study

Righteousness is one of the most unpursued qualities of Jesus. To be righteous is to be like Jesus. The goal of this study is to challenge and inspire the teens to seek righteousness with all their hearts. You must be about your life to facilitate openness in the teenage

Training yourself to be Godly

INTRODUCTION

- 1) What is involved in training?(athletic, spiritual)
 - a) repetition
 - b) learning the basics
- 2) How will you train yourself to be Godly?
 - a) consistent, daily times with God in Bible study and prayer
 - b) having self-control in challenging situations

The goal of this study is to help you to see that your spiritual progress depends on your willingness and effort to build your relationship with God on the foundation that has been laid by others. God wants each of us to take personal responsibility to mature and grow. To be Godly requires self-discipline and seriousness in heart and mind.

1. Philippians 2:12-13

*12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,
13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

Who is responsible for your salvation?

Pick one : parents, teen leader, church, or you.

What does it mean to "work out your own salvation"?

- a) obedience to God, even when other spiritual people aren't around
- b) personal attention to your spiritual welfare
- c) fearing God

Bottom line : God puts the responsibility to work out your salvation on you. Then when you start working, he works in you to help you live out this purpose.

2. 1 Peter 2:2-3

*2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,
3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

What does it mean to crave?

- a) To have an intense desire
- b) Can't wait to get it

What is "pure spiritual milk"?

- a) the Bible and prayer
- b) Godly advice from parents, teachers and leaders
- c) Christ-like examples

Bottom line : What we desire, we pursue. You must cultivate an appetite for a Godly character by "tasting" the goodness of the Lord through your personal Bible study and imitating Godly qualities in others.

3. 1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

What example can you set for other teens?

- a) Bible study and prayer being daily and life-changing
- b) Daily evangelism with faith
- c) Home life (Christianity starts in the home!)
- d) Serving without hesitation
- e) Speaking to others to build them up and not tear them down, whether it's a challenge or an encouragement; giving from your heart in all conversations
- f) Acting maturely in church (not silly or immature)
- g) Being real and sincere in your motivation to become a Christian

Bottom line : Even though you are young, you can inspire others by your Godly example

PERSONAL HEART-CHECK QUESTIONS

- a. What areas do you see that you need to mature in?
- b. Are you willing to take responsibility for seeking to change in these areas?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- a. Keep a journal for your quiet times so that you can remind yourself of the things you are learning and growing in.
- b. Decide that you will be an example to the other teens when you are in the fellowship.
- c. Go over the studies we are doing so that you can be sure to put the things you are learning into practice.

To the leaders of the study

A teen embarking on studying the Bible must have the maturity to follow through with the life-changing decisions that they will make throughout the study series. One way that their maturity can be discerned is by their efforts to train themselves in Godliness through their personal Bible study and their own hands and not waiting for others to do

all of the initiating.

The goal of this study is to help them to see their need to be self motivated in their relationship with God and their pursuit of the studies. Hopefully they will come away with the confidence that they can mature in their character quickly.

Whats your dad like?

INTRODUCTION

1) Think about your own dad pretend I've never met him or heard about him. Describe him to me.

Some sample questions to help the teen:

- a. What does your dad love to do? Hate to do?
- b. What are some of his best character traits?
- c. Worst? How do you know how he feels about you?
- d. When is he most proud of you? What makes him mad?

1. Luke 15:11-24

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

What is the son like before he leaves?

- a) selfish-took his dad's money before he was even dead
- b) very sinful-reckless, wild sensual

Even though the son was really mean to his father when he left, how did the father respond when the son returned?

- a) excited
- b) gave him gifts
- c) called people together to celebrate

Bottom line : God is a compassionate and loving father who desperately wants to be with us. He is not a judgmental God, waiting to zap us for every mistake. He is not an uncaring God, laughing at our pain. He wants to welcome each one of us home in our relationship with him.

2. John 8:1-9

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.

3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group

4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.

7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."

8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

What was Jesus reaction to this woman's embarrassing, humiliating sin/ (Keep in mind that Jesus character is the exact representation of God's character)?

- a) sensitive to her embarrassment
- b) Treated her sin like any other - not, "Oh, I can't believe you did that!"
- c) totally forgiving, even though that sin was punishable by death

Bottom line : Forgiveness is part of God's character. Understanding our need for forgiveness and God's willingness to totally forgive us helps to draw us closer to him, to love and appreciate him more.

3. Hebrews 12:5-11

5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are

illegitimate children and not true sons.

9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

How does this passage say it feels to be disciplined?

- a) like hardship
- b) painful
- c) unpleasant

Why does God discipline?

- a) for our good (to keep us from walking on evil paths)
- b) so we can learn lessons in order to make better decisions in the future
- c) so we can be secure that he loves and cares for us

What is our dad in heaven like?

- a) He unconditionally loves
- b) He forgives all of our sins.
- c) He disciplines us for our good.
- d) He believes in us and wants us to live happily ever after.

4. Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

This passage sums up how God takes care of us when we seek him.

PERSONAL HEART -CHECK QUESTIONS

- a. Do you want to be closer to go?
- b. Let's read your essay now. Is your view of God different now than when you wrote this?
- c. Do you see any relationship between how you personally view your earthly father and how you view your heavenly father?
- d. Are you willing to open wide your heart to God and let him be the Father to you that he wants and needs to be

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- a. Write out a one-page essay about what you've learned from this study and why you think this is an important study to do in order to become a disciple or grow as a disciple.
- b. Pray every day to see God as the Bible describes him, not as you feel or think

he is.

To the leaders of the study

A teenager's view of their dad will effect how they view God. In order to be in a healthy relationship with God, the teen must understand what God is like and begin to love him deeply.

Special notes : Even if the teen's dad is not with the family, he still has a presence and an impact on his child's life. Use the introduction time to draw how they feel about him, whether present or absent. Also be sure to encourage teens who don't have a great example in a dad that God is the perfect Dad for them. Open your time together by sharing about your own dad.

Important Note : Ask the teen to write out their view of God before you get together to study the Bible. When you sit down to study, ask them to give you their essay, and hold on to it until the end.

Who are you living to please?

INTRODUCTION

1. Whose approval is important to you? Who do you want to please or get approval from?

Some answers:

- a) Myself
- b) Parent's / teachers
- c) Teen Leaders
- d) Older Disciples
- e) Friends

2. Why?

- a) to be accepted , liked, popular
- b) to feel good about myself
- c) because it feels good to be praised.

The goal of the study is to help you to see the importance of pleasing God and seeking praise and approval from him

1. John 5:41-44

*41 "I do not accept praise from men,
42 but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.
43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.
44 How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God ?*

What is Jesus teaching in these scriptures?

- a) We need to follow his example by focusing on getting praise from God, not from people.
- b) We will please whom we love.

Bottom line: These people knew the truth but did not follow it because of peer pressure. They cared more about their reputation with people than they cared about doing what was right before God.

2. Galatians 1:10

Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

What does Paul tell us about the difference between pleasing people and pleasing God?

They are opposites!

When are you tempted to do the God-pleasing thing but with people-pleasing motives?

- a) going to church
- b) obeying parents just because they said so, not because we want to please God.
- c) serving but want recognition for all you do by peers or leaders

Bottom line: when we strive to please God, we may not be popular with the world, but keep in mind that man's approval is temporary, while God's approval is eternal!

3. Mark 12:14

They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

What does it mean to be "swayed by men"? Who are you most likely to be swayed by?

What does "integrity" mean?

- a) sticking to your convictions no matter what
- b) doing what you said you would do and doing it on time

Bottom line: Jesus was not swayed by men because he saw them from a spiritual perspective. We need to imitate this quality in him

4. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Why should we care about trying to please God?

- a) It doesn't just happen - it has to be a set goal.
- b) We all (every single person, whether we believe in God or not) will be accountable for our lives.
- c) Jesus died for us and we need to live to please him.

PERSONAL HEART - CHECK QUESTIONS

1. Can you relate to the people-pleasing Pharisees in any way?
2. Have you counted the cost of studying the Bible? Becoming a Christian will affect your reputation with your non-Christian friends.
3. What do your lifestyle and your priorities say about how much faith you have in God?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Make three columns on a page.

In the first column, list all the activities you are involved in everything, including studying the Bible, school activities, free time, etc.

In the next column, write the reason you think you participate in it. Ask others who know you well to tell you why they think you are involved. Allow them to point out the areas where they see you "loving praise from men rather than from God"

Write their insights in the third column.

Be honest and encourage honesty bring the list to your next study and review it with your teen leader. This will help you to see whom you are living to please and decide to please God instead.

Write out a one-page essay about why you really want to study the Bible.

To the leaders of the study

People pleasing is predominant among teens. As they develop a strong sense of their own identity, they seek approval and acceptance from others. Christian parented teens are commonly motivated by people pleasing to study the Bible, they feel great deal of pressure to study the Bible to please the Christian parents sibling and friends. They can strive to give the "right" responses to questions not necessarily their own true hard felt responses.