

“Heart - 2 - Heart”

Family Bible Study Series – A look at Hot Topics

Dear Family,

As you know, Satan has a strong foothold on our society. He is attacking from all angles in all types of ways. His arsenal is heavily equipped with alcohol, drugs, violence, TV, negative peer pressure, complacency, busy-ness and many other tools he has at his disposal.

The only way we can truly overcome Satan and the arsenal that he uses is by our faith in Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through me.” Romans 10:17 states it like this, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the Word of God.” If we want our family to withstand the pressures of the world, we must be in the Word.

Unfortunately, many families are too busy and have decided to put spiritual development low on the priority list. We spend large amounts of time in activities such as work, sports, school, and recreation, but devote little time to spend developing our relationship with God. Some families have left it to the church to provide their only spiritual food on Sundays and Wednesdays. Because of that, many of us are spiritually malnourished. We need to be in God’s word more! We need to teach our children the importance of Bible study!

To assist with this dilemma, we try to supply our church family here with tools that can help make our homes the hub of spiritual development. These lessons are designed to be very simple, basic and applicable to the entire family. They are written so that someone unfamiliar with the Bible could use these outlines. They can also be used as a starting point for a family that may be older. Just take these lessons and add more depth to them. The most important thing is for us to begin to open the Word of God as a family. This is where we can develop a spiritual life that can withstand the storms of Satan! How is your family spiritually?

You can NEVER start too young or too old!

May God bless your efforts to develop a strong God-centered home.

Tony Hall
Youth & Family Minister

Keys to Having a Good Bible Study

- Have a family meeting and discuss what night and time of the week would be best to have the study.
- Stick to the time that is agreed upon—start and finish on time.
- Make a decision that this will be a family priority.
- Start each lesson with a prayer.
- Give each family member time to discuss what has happened during their day at school or work.
- Do not allow the discussion time to become a place for family complaints and arguments.
- Give each family member an opportunity to share how they were able to work on last weeks lesson.
- Always remember what the purpose of this study is...
 1. To develop a closer relationship with God.
 2. To develop a closer relationship with each other.
 3. To unite as a Godly family.
- Take time each week to work on your Family Bible Goals.
- End each lesson with a prayer.

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Choices and Consequences

Purpose: To read and discover how to make the right choices in life.

Bible Verses:

?? Acts 5:1-11; Joshua 24:14-24

Family Discussion:

What are the three most important decisions you will make in your life?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

How will the choices you make in these important areas impact your future?

What wrong choice did Ananias and Sapphira make in Acts 5? What was the consequence for their wrong choice?

What is the worst decision you have ever made? What consequence did you face because of this bad choice?

What are some possible consequences for one who makes the following bad decisions?

1. Drinking and Driving _____

2. Premarital Sex _____

3. Attending wild parties _____

4. Dating a non-Christian _____

5. Hanging out with bad friends _____

What is the most important decision you will ever make? What are the consequences for a person who rejects the gospel of Jesus? (2nd Thessalonians 1:8)

What decision did Joshua and his family make concerning God? Has your family made this same commitment?

Family Challenge:

Write down Joshua 24:15 on a piece of paper. Memorize this verse and more importantly put it into practice.

Family Bible Goals: Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

Choosing Godly Friends

Purpose: To read and discover the impact our friends have on our lives.

Bible Verses:

?? 1st Corinthians 15:33; 2nd Samuel 13:1-33

Family Discussion:

What people have the most influence on your lives?

Make a list of your three closest friends.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Indicate whether these friends are bringing you closer to God or dragging you down. Would your friends describe you as a good role model or a bad one? How can you influence your friends to be Christ-like without losing your own relationship with Jesus?

What is more important to you right now—your relationship with your friends or your relationship with Jesus? If you have close friends that are hurting your relationship with Jesus, what should you do?

What does Paul say about friendship in 1st Corinthians 15:33? What is the danger of having close friends that are not Christ-like?

Read 2nd Samuel 13:1-33: Describe the relationship between Amnon and Jonadab? (vs. 3) What struggle was Amnon going through? What evil plan did Jonadab present to his friend?

Did Amnon follow his friend's advice? What sin did Amnon commit? Describe what happened to Tamar, Absalom and Amnon because of this evil plan?

Family Challenge:

Write a short paragraph describing what it means to be a good friend to someone. Share your descriptions with your family.

Family Bible Goals: Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

Dating and Sex

Purpose: To discover God's answer for the following questions: 1) What is acceptable contact in a dating relationship and 2) How can I have a pure dating experience.

Bible Verses: Ephesians 5:3 (NIV); 1st Corinthians 6:12-20

Family Discussion:

Ephesians 5:3 (NIV)—“*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality.*”

What is sexual immorality? According to this verse how much sexual immorality will God tolerate? How should this verse impact what we do physically on a date?

Indicate whether the following things are acceptable or unacceptable in a dating relationship in the eyes of God.

1. oral sex	acceptable	unacceptable
2. hand sex	acceptable	unacceptable
3. holding hands	acceptable	unacceptable
4. light kiss on cheek	acceptable	unacceptable
5. rubbing outside of clothes	acceptable	unacceptable
6. heavy kissing	acceptable	unacceptable
7. sexual intercourse	acceptable	unacceptable

*1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 are obviously unacceptable. 3 and 4 can be acceptable, but they can also be unacceptable if they lead to other things or are causing one to lust. **Parents we must remember that our kids are getting a message that all of these things are ok!***

Read 1st Corinthians 6:12-20: Why does God take sexual sin so seriously? What are some physical, emotional and spiritual consequences of engaging in sexual immorality?

Family Challenge:

Young people write down five things that you can do to have a Godly dating experience. Parents write down five things that you can do to help your children have a Godly dating experience. Share your lists with each other.

Family Bible Goals: Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

Marriage

Purpose: To read and discover God's eternal plan for the marriage relationship.

Bible Verses: Genesis 2:18-24; Ephesians 5:22-31; 2nd Corinthians 6:14-18; Matthew 19:6

Family Discussion:

Read Genesis 2:18-24: Why did God make a woman for man? How did God describe the relationship between husband and wife in Genesis 2:24?

Read Ephesians 5:22-31: What responsibilities does a woman have to her husband in the marriage relationship? Describe what it means to submit to someone.

What responsibilities does a man have to his wife in the marriage relationship? What illustration is used to show how deep a man should love his wife?

How is the woman's responsibility of submission connected to the man's responsibility of sacrificial love? What happens if one of these responsibilities is ignored by the husband or wife?

List the three most important qualities you should look for in a marriage partner.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Which one is the most important in the eyes of God? Which one is the most important in the eyes of the world? Which one is the most important in your eyes?

If you are dating someone you would not marry what should you do? God expects marriages to last _____.

Family Challenge:

This week begin praying for the person you will marry. Parents begin praying for the person your children will marry.

Family Bible Goals: Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

Divorce

Purpose: *To read and discover what God says about divorce.*

Bible Verses:

?? Matthew 5:31-32; Matthew 19:1-9; 1st Corinthians 7

Family Discussion:

What does Jesus say about divorce in Matthew 5? How did what He say differ from what the Jews were practicing under the Old Testament?

What is the only reason given by Jesus in Matthew 5 for ending a marriage relationship? What sin is committed if someone goes against this teaching? What is adultery?

Read Matthew 19:1-9: What question was Jesus asked in Matthew 19:3? How would the world answer this question? How did Christ answer this question?

How does God feel about divorce? How did Jesus illustrate God's feelings concerning divorce? (vs. 6)

What is the only reason Jesus gives for ending a marriage relationship in Matthew 19? (vs. 9)

How does a divorce affect a family? What are some decisions you can make to prevent yourself from being in this situation?

What is the most important decision you can make to build a marriage that does not end in divorce? (*Marrying a New Testament Christian is a great way to start a marriage that will last. It is unfortunately not a guarantee that a marriage will work, but it increases the odds tremendously!*)

Family Challenge:

List some harmful effects that divorce has on a family. Share your list with the family.

Family Bible Goals: Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

Modesty

Purpose: To read and discover what God says concerning our dress.

Bible Verses:

?? 1st Peter 3:3-4; 2nd Samuel 11:1-5; Matthew 18:1-6; Jeremiah 8:12

Family Discussion:

What is modesty? Which items below are immodest in God's eyes?

<i>Mini skirts</i>	<i>modest</i>	<i>or</i>	<i>immodest</i>
<i>Short shorts</i>	<i>modest</i>	<i>or</i>	<i>immodest</i>
<i>Tight clothing</i>	<i>modest</i>	<i>or</i>	<i>immodest</i>
<i>Low cut dresses</i>	<i>modest</i>	<i>or</i>	<i>immodest</i>

Does society seem to give modesty much thought? Explain. Where is immodesty being portrayed the most? What would be a good slogan to describe society's view of modesty?

What does Peter say about modesty in 1st Peter 3:3-4? What is more important our outward appearance or inward appearance? How must we dress in order to keep our hearts pure?

Read 2nd Samuel 11:1-5. How does immodesty relate to lust? What affect did Bathsheeba's appearance have on David? Who sinned—David or Bathsheeba? (Both of them were wrong!)

When you dress immodestly, what thoughts do you think are going through other peoples minds? Is it possible to cause other people to sin by what we wear?

Read Matthew 18:1-6—What does Jesus say will happen to anyone who causes someone else to sin? How should this impact our dress?

Read Jeremiah 8:12—What problem is Jeremiah addressing in this verse? Does sinfulness including immodest dress cause you to blush?

Family Challenge:

Go through your closet and get rid of all immodest, ungodly clothing! Pray for the strength to dress Godly!

Family Bible Goals: Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

Overcoming Lust

Purpose: *To read and discover what God says about lust and how to overcome it.*

Bible Verses: Matthew 5:27-30; James 1:13-15; 1st Peter 2:11;
1st Corinthians 6:18; Philippians 4:8-9

Family Discussion:

Is it sinful to view pornographic materials? What does Jesus say about lust in Matthew 5? When someone looks at pornography, are they lusting after that woman? According to Matthew 5, does a married man commit adultery against his wife when viewing pornography?

Read James 1:13-15: What does lust (evil desires) lead to? What does sin result in? Viewing pornography (lusting) is a sin that can cost us our soul.

Read 1st Peter 2:11: What do fleshly lusts do to the soul? What kind of war is being described here? Why did Peter use the word war to describe the internal struggle against lust? How can we win the war against lust and pornography?

What are the main sources of pornography today? (*movies, magazines, internet*) If someone is struggling with this sin, what are some things they should do? What does Jesus say about overcoming lust in Matthew 5:29-30? How does this apply to the internet or to magazines?

What does Paul say in 1st Corinthians 6:18 about overcoming the temptation of sexual immorality? What does the word flee mean?

Read Philippians 4:8-9: List two things from these verses that we can do to overcome the temptation of viewing pornography.

We can overcome the sin of lust associated with viewing pornography by: 1) *removing the source of the temptation*, 2) *running from the temptation when faced with it*, 3) *filling our minds with Godly things*, 4) *following the example of Godly people such as Paul*.

Family Challenge: Read and discuss 1st Corinthians 10:13 as a family in relation to lust and viewing pornography.

Drugs and Alcohol

Purpose: To discover what God says about using drugs and alcohol.

Bible Verses: Proverbs 23:20-21 & 29-35; 1st Corinthians 6:12-20;
Galatians 5:16-24

Family Discussion:

Why are so many young people giving into the temptation of drinking and using other drugs? What impact does choosing to use drugs and alcohol have on ourselves and others?

Read the verses in Proverbs: What insight does Solomon give us about the effects of drinking? Do you know of anyone who fits this description?

What do we learn about our bodies in 1st Corinthians 6:12-20? Our bodies are the _____ of God. How does God expect us to treat our bodies? In what harmful ways do drugs and alcohol affect our bodies?

Galatians 5:16-24: List some deeds of the flesh (sinful nature) from verses 19-21.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List some things identified as the fruit of the spirit from verses 22-23.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

In which list would you place drinking and using drugs. Why?

How would you feel if you found out your youth minister or pulpit minister had alcohol at home? What impact does drinking and using other drugs have on our influence for Christ?

Family Challenge:

Make a list of negative consequences that drinking and drug use creates. Together with your parents write down three things you can do to avoid giving into this temptation.

Family Bible Goals: Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals. (p. 17)

Music in Today's Society

Purpose: To compare the music we listen to verses the music God would want us to hear.

Bible Verses: Romans 12:1-2; 1st Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:5-17

Family Discussion:

What are your three favorite CDs? What impact do these CDs, and other music you listen to have on you? How does music affect our attitudes? Music has a tremendous influence inwardly. Does music also affect us outwardly (dress, language)? Explain.

Read Romans 12:1-2—What does it mean to be transformed by the renewing of your mind? In what ways can music “conform us to this world?” Does listening to music dealing with sex, violence, murder, etc., help us become righteous in God’s eyes?

Read the words of Jesus in Matthew 12:34 and Matthew 15:18—*Some parents and teens protest and argue that the singers don’t really mean what they are singing. They claim it’s just a song.* Compare this statement with the words of Jesus in the above verses. Do the parents and teens have a good argument? Explain.

1st Corinthians 13:4-7 are powerful verses on God’s view of love. In the music industry today, how many of these teachings on love are broken?

Read Colossians 3:5-17—What are some things from verse 5 and 8 that we are to avoid as Christians? How many of these topics are talked about in a positive manner in many songs today? How does verse 17 apply to our discussion on the music we listen to? Can you honestly say that all the music you listen to is Godly?

Family Challenge:

Make a list of all the CDs you own as a family (this may take a while). Label each CD as Godly or ungodly based on the Bible verses you have discussed in today’s lesson. Take all the CDs that are ungodly and throw them away.

Family Bible Goals: Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

What Are We Watching?

Purpose: To identify God's standard for the television shows and movies we watch.

Bible Verses: Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 15:17-19; Matthew 6:22-23

Family Discussion:

List some of your favorite TV shows. What are your three favorite movies of all time? What impact does television and movies have on people today?

List three good things about TV and movies. List three negative things about television and movies. What are some things that we see and hear on television and at the movies that goes against God's will?

How do you decide what TV shows and movies to watch? Read Colossians 3:1-4: If Paul had a TV or was able to go watch a movie during his missionary journeys, how would he decide what to watch and what not to watch?

Does your family watch R-rated movies? Why are movies given an R-rating? (*Movies are rated R because of cussing, violence, nudity and sexuality*). Parents—Would you allow people to come into your home and cuss, beat each other up, and have sex while your family sat and watched? Isn't that what were doing when we rent movies and watch TV shows filled with all of these things?

What does Jesus say about the eye in Matthew 6:22-23? Read Matthew 15:17-19: What are some effects of watching movies and TV shows filled with sinfulness?

If Jesus stayed a week with you in your house, would you watch the same movies and television shows you normally watch?

Family Challenges:

1. Refuse to watch any R-rated movies.
2. Only watch the TV shows that Jesus would watch.
3. Spend more time reading the Bible and praying than watching TV.

Family Bible Goals: Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

Homosexuality

Purpose: To read and discover what God says about homosexuality.

Bible Verses: Genesis 19:1-13; 1st Corinthians 6:9-11; Romans 1:26-27; Matthew 19:4-6

Family Discussion:

The first example of homosexuality in the Bible is found in the city of Sodom in Genesis 19. What happened to the city of Sodom as a result of their wickedness?

Read 1st Corinthians 6:9-11—What does Paul say about the unrighteous in verse 9? What does the word unrighteous mean? In which verse does Paul mention homosexuality as an unrighteous practice?

Paul urges the Corinthians to not be _____. Has our society been deceived about the sin of homosexuality? Explain. Have you and your family been deceived? Does your family watch TV shows that openly promote homosexuality? (Friends, Will and Grace, etc.)

1st Corinthians 6:11 tells us that those caught up in the sin of homosexuality will not inherit the kingdom of _____.

Read Romans 1:26-27—How does Paul describe God's feelings about homosexuality? How does Paul describe the practice of homosexuality in these verses? Based on the above verses, how does God view homosexuality?

In Matthew 19:4-6, we learn what is right or natural in the eyes of God. From the beginning, God purposed for a man and a woman to marry and become one flesh. Is it OK in the eyes of God for two men or two women to marry each other?

Family Challenge:

As a family, take an active stance against homosexuality. Refuse to watch any television shows that promote the practice. Write your lawmakers, who are being pressured to make laws accepting homosexual marriages and practices, a letter sharing your families belief in God's teaching on this subject.

Abortion

Purpose: To read and discover whether abortion is right or wrong in the eyes of God.

Bible Verses: Jeremiah 1:4-5; Judges 13:7; Judges 16:17; Job 31:15; Romans 13:9; Matthew 1:18-25

Family Discussion:

What is abortion? (Parents take a few minutes to explain to your teen what abortion is.)

Jeremiah 1:4-5—When did God tell Jeremiah He knew him?

Judges 13:7 and 16:17—Samson was called a Nazarite unto God from the

_____.

Job 31:15—When was Job formed by God?

Reflecting on the above verses, when does life begin in the eyes of God?

Read Exodus 20:13 and Romans 13:9—What do we learn about murder from these two verses? What is murder? Is abortion murder in the eyes of God? Why?

Read Proverbs 6:16-19—There are six things mentioned in these verses that the Lord hates. Which one of these applies to abortion? Is aborting a baby the shedding of innocent blood?

In Matthew 1:18-25 we read about the conception and birth of Jesus. What was Joseph's reaction when he discovered Mary was pregnant? How would you have felt if you were Joseph? How do you think it looked for Mary to be pregnant and not yet married?

What trials did Mary and Joseph face? What would have happened if they had decided to have an abortion? How does this example apply to us today?

Family Challenge: Parents—Take a few minutes to answer any questions your teenagers have on abortion. ***4,320 babies are murdered through the practice of abortion everyday!*** Make a list of three things you can do as a Christian family to fight against this widely accepted practice.

Enduring Consequences

Purpose: To help our children to understand the lasting consequences sin can bring about.

Bible Verses: 2nd Samuel 12:1-18; 1st Corinthians 10:13; Romans 6:23

Family Discussion:

In 2nd Samuel 12 who comes and speaks to David? Describe the story that Nathan spoke to David? How was David described after hearing this story?

Who was Nathan talking about in his story? What sin had David committed?

List the consequences David had to endure throughout the remainder of his life because of his sin.

Verse 10 _____

Verse 11 _____

Verse 14 _____

List a possible consequence from becoming involved in the following sinful acts.

Sexual Immorality _____

Drinking _____

Lying _____

Disobeying Parents _____

Read 1st Corinthians 10:13—How can we avoid the painful consequences that sin inevitably brings about? What promises does God make us in this verse to help us resist all the temptations we have discussed in this book?

Read Romans 6:23—What is the ultimate consequence for sin? What unbelievable gift has God given us to allow us to escape our death sentence?

Family Challenge: Everyone makes mistakes. It is important that we learn from our mistakes and from the mistakes of others. Share with your family one thing you have learned from a previous mistake.

Family Bible Goals: Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

Family Bible Goals

1. Memorize the books of the New Testament.
2. Memorize the books of the Old Testament.
3. Memorize the 15 Judges of Israel.
Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, Eli, Samuel
4. Memorize the 12 Apostles.
Peter, James, John, Judas, Thaddeus, Bartholomew, Thomas, Simon, Andrew, Philip, Matthew
5. Memorize the 23rd Psalm.
6. Learn God's plan of salvation.
Hear—Romans 10:17
Believe—John 8:24
Repent—Acts 2:38
Confess—Matthew 10:32-33
Baptism—Mark 16:15-16
7. Memorize 1st Corinthians 10:13.

These are only a few suggestions of possible Family Bible Goals! There are numerous opportunities to develop your family spiritually. Challenge yourself and your family to fill your minds and hearts with God's Word!

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