

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS  
ABOUT **SEX** AND **HOLINESS**

# DIFFERENT

A 4-lesson Bible Study

youthministry360

the edge

# A *Live Different* **SAMPLE LESSON** from ym360

Culture calls teenagers to live a life where sexual activity and sexual expression is a vital part of their identity. But the Bible challenges your students to embrace *God's* view of sex and sexuality, to rise above the message of culture and to instead live holy lives . . . **In short, the Bible calls your students to *Live Different*.**

*Live Different*, the newest 4-lesson Bible Study Resource from youth**ministry**360, teaches your students God's intent for sex and how God views sex outside of this intent. Most importantly, *Live Different* will help you challenge your students with God's call to live a life of holiness in a world of sexual immorality.

This **SAMPLE LESSON** from *Live Different*, not only provides a glimpse at the lesson content, but also provides a look at our commitment to producing excellent content, and to equipping you with Bible Study Resources. There are literally so many resources packed into *Live Different*, we can't list them all here! If you like the lesson, check out the rest of what *Live Different* has to offer by clicking here.

Please don't hesitate to call or email us with questions. Our passion is serving and equipping youth workers. Your input helps us do this more effectively. God Bless You & Your Ministry!

--The youth**ministry**360 team

**Want to order your copy of *Live Different*? Or, want to see a sample of the videos that accompany it? [Click Here](#) for more info.**

## About youth**ministry**360

youth**ministry**360 is a new youth ministry resource provider dedicated to serving and equipping youth workers through Bible Study Resources, Training, Community, and Networking. ym360 has a heart for God's Word, for teenagers, and for youth workers in the local church. Think of this lesson as just one of the ways ym360 wants to partner with you in leading your students deeper in their relationship with Christ.

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Today's teenager lives in a hyper-sexualized culture. And while sexual immorality is an almost timeless struggle, the world your students live in seems to take the glamorization of sex to unprecedented levels. Culture calls teenagers to live a life where sexual activity and sexual expression is a vital part of their identity. But the Bible challenges your students to embrace God's view of sex and sexuality, to rise above the message of culture and to instead live holy lives . . . **In short, the Bible calls your students to *Live Different*.**

*Live Different* teaches your students God's intent for sex and how God views sex outside of this intent. Most importantly, *Live Different* will help you challenge your students with God's call to live a life of holiness in a world of sexual immorality.

## LOADED WITH RESOURCES:

-  4 Lesson Plans complete with Bible Background guides
-  Media! 2 Videos, plus other interactive elements
-  Parent Resources! PDF's designed to involve families in learning
-  Guys & girls small group discussion option
-  8 "digi-posters" for your website or Facebook page
-  PowerPoint slides & in-class student handouts
-  Cool Promo-Art for your room and website

The Edge is youthministry360's way of biblically addressing the topics that teenagers need help dealing with. These 4-lesson studies teach teenagers to how to address these topics from a biblical worldview.

the **edge**

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# LIVE DIFFERENT Lesson 1: Right Place, Right Time

**Objective:** The point of the lesson is that your students grasp that God intends sex to be enjoyed between a man and a woman within the marriage relationship and that this view begins to influence their attitudes regarding sex and sexuality.

**Focus Scripture:** Genesis 2:20-25, Hebrews 13:4, Song of Solomon 2:7

**Overview:** Today's teenager lives in a hyper-sexualized society. And while sexual immorality has plagued humankind virtually forever, we seem to be in the midst of an age where the glamorization of sex is unprecedented. Teenagers are bombarded by messages about sex and sexual behavior. What does our culture say to teenagers about sex? Culture says sex is part of who you are, and that a teenager's sexuality is simply one facet of his or her identity. Culture says sexual expression is an important aspect of being young. But most importantly, culture says that sex between two consenting teenagers is OK, if not normal. As long as sex is not coercive, marriage, and maybe even love, doesn't really matter. The problem is that this flies in the face of how the Bible talks about sex and sexual expression. It's imperative that teenagers learn God's intention for how they are to make choices about sex and sexuality. This first lesson in *Live Different* helps students understand the biblical context for sex and its expression.

## Bible Background

### The Details

#### Who wrote the Books of Genesis, Hebrews, and Song of Solomon?

These are three books whose authorship is the source of some debate. While there's no specific author named within the text, the traditional authorship of Genesis (as well as the rest of the Pentateuch) is attributed to Moses. Simply put, no one knows who the author of Hebrews is; over the years Paul, Barnabas, Apollos, and even Priscilla and Aquila have been proposed as authors. Song of Solomon has traditionally been thought to have been written by Solomon, though there's a good deal of textual evidence that throws this in doubt. It seems to have certainly been written during Solomon's reign; if it wasn't written by Solomon, it could have been written under his oversight.

#### When were these books written?

Put simply, it's hard to know exactly when Genesis was written. There are two different arguments for the date of the actual Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt: an earlier date (around mid 1400s B.C.) and a later date (around the mid 1200s B.C.). The writing of Genesis would fall sometime around these general dates. Most scholars argue for a date for the writing of Hebrews as sometime before 70 A.D. and the destruction of the Temple. Song of Solomon is thought to have been written sometime between 960 B.C. and 931 B.C.

#### What was the purpose for the writing of these books?

##### GENESIS

Our English title for the book Genesis actually comes from the Greek translation of the Pentateuch. The Greek word for Genesis means "origins." The Hebrew title is derived from the first phrase in the book: "In the beginning." So Genesis is a book of origins, or beginnings. Genesis tells the story of the beginning of creation, humankind, and God's people.

##### HEBREWS

The Book of Hebrews was written to an audience primarily made up of Jewish Christ-followers to encourage them to stay strong in their faith. The book urges these believers to endure in their faith by reframing an understanding of Jesus as the fulfiller of the Jewish faith. Persecution might have driven some of these Christ-followers to begin to turn away from their faith. The author of Hebrews was calling them to stay strong.

##### SONG OF SOLOMON

Song of Solomon more or less tells the story of a man and woman who are engaged to be married. The book communicates their excitement over their love for one another, their upcoming wedding, and the anticipation of enjoying marital relations. It portrays the proper place for sexual relations, namely within the bonds of a loving marriage.

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## The Main Point

### GENESIS 2:24

This verse encapsulates God's original creative intent for a godly, sexual relationship. When God had a blank slate and created things as He saw fit, He created one man and one woman designed to be in union with one another. Genesis then makes a statement about this union: husband and wife are to join together to become one flesh. This verse paints a picture of God's plan for sexual relations. Part of God's design for humankind was for man and woman to enjoy a monogamous sexual relationship within the bonds of marriage.

### HEBREWS 13:4

This verse from Hebrews is a very simple summation of God's design for sex and marriage. Quite simply, the "marriage bed" is to be kept "pure." How does one defile the marriage bed? By adultery, which, of course, is having sex with someone other than your husband or wife, or by sexual immorality, which addresses sexual intercourse or sexual acts outside of marriage. This verse couples with Genesis to support the concept that God's ideal for sexual intercourse is within marriage.

### SONG OF SOLOMON 2:7

This verse offers a brief and poetic support for the idea communicated in Genesis 2:24 and Hebrews 13:4. When viewed with the backdrop of Song of Solomon as a whole, this verse points to there being a right time for "love" to be awakened. This can be interpreted as more evidence that God desires sexual intimacy to only be expressed in marriage.

## Wrap Up

Scripture is profoundly clear: God intends sexual expression to only occur between a man and a woman within the marriage relationship. This is a truth that must form the basis of your students' understanding of sexuality, sexual expression, and sexual relations. This, of course, runs completely counter to what the world tells your students about sex. But before you can begin to address your students' attitudes and even practices when it comes to sexual activity, you must start with the baseline of God's design for sex. That is the purpose of this lesson: to provide the biblical argument for the right expression of sexual intimacy.

## Lesson Plan

### The Build Up

**Title:** Live Different, Intro

**Goal:** The idea is to get your students thinking about the issues of sex and sexuality, and their attitudes toward them.

**Set Up:** You'll need the *Live Different Media Disc* and a way to show the video, such as a DVD player or your laptop. Or if you would prefer to drop the video into your presentation software, open the media disc on your computer, download the .MOV file, and drop it into a slide.

**FIRST** >> remind students that you're beginning a four-lesson study on sex and holiness entitled *Live Different*. Explain to your students that you're going to watch a video that introduces the study and gives a little glimpse into the theme they will be looking at over the next few lessons.

**NEXT** >> show the video.

**FINALLY** >> explain that this lesson will help them understand the Bible's definition of sex that is good and that falls within God's plan. Encourage them that this will be the foundation on which their attitude toward sex and holiness should be built.

### The Focus

**Title:** Right Place, Right Time

**Goal:** The idea is for your students to begin to grasp God's true intent for sex and sexual expression.

**Set-Up:** Provide Student Guides and something to write with. You may also choose to provide a dry erase board. If you wish, arrange to show the PowerPoint slideshow. The slideshow corresponds with some of the questions, but it's intentionally minimalistic so that you can customize it based on how you choose to teach the lesson.

**FIRST** >> tell your students that you'll be looking at three different passages to see how God reveals His intentions for sex and sexuality throughout Scripture. Then instruct students to turn to Genesis 2. Read or have a student read Genesis 2:20-25. When you've finished, explain that this is the account of God making Eve. God had made Adam and saw that none of the

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animals was a suitable companion for him. So God made Eve to be Adam's mate. Explain that looking at this passage is very valuable because it shows us how God originally designed His creation to work; we can see the order of how things were intended before sin corrupted creation.

**THEN** instruct students to look at verses 24-25. Explain that when verse 24 talks about man and woman becoming "one flesh," it's talking about sexual intercourse. Direct your students' attention to the Student Guide under the column "What God Says." Instruct them to look at the section entitled "Who?." Then ask the following questions. (Instruct students to record their answers on their Student Guides, or you may write them on a dry erase board.)

- **If we're trying to identify sex that's acceptable in God's scheme of things, based on these verses how would we answer the "Who" question? In other words, when is sex right in God's eyes?**

*Answer:* According to these verses, the "who" is a man and woman joined in marriage. Sex between a husband and wife is good in God's eyes.

- **Verse 25 may seem a little awkward at first, but what does it say about sexuality within God's intended purpose?**

*Answer:* Adam and Eve had nothing to be ashamed about. They were expressing their unique sexuality within the relationship God had created.

- **What does this say about sex and sexuality in general? Is it inherently bad or wrong?**

*Answer:* When sex and sexuality are expressed within the godly boundary of marriage between a man and a woman, God's creative intent for humans is honored. Within this relationship, sex and sexuality are good in God's eyes.

**NEXT** instruct students to look in their Student Guides at the column entitled "What Culture Says." Lead them in a short discussion. Ask:

- **Think of the way the culture that surrounds you deals with sex. Think about movies, music, magazines, and so on. What are some examples of the messages our culture sends about the "who" of sex? Who is sex OK with in the world's eyes?**

*Answer:* Culture seems to say that sex between any two consenting people is OK. As long as no one is coerced or made to have sex against his or her will, not many restrictions are put on sex. Age and marriage seem to have little bearing.

- **What about love? Our culture seems to say that sex between two people who love each other is OK, regardless of whether they're married or not. What is the problem with this?**

*Answer:* Answers may include: Love outside of marriage is fleeting and/or changing. Young people may believe they're in love, but find afterward that they were not. Who's to say someone can't feel love for more than one person? Does this make sex with multiple partners acceptable?

Help students to see that if they're Christ-followers, God's intent for sex within marriage is the standard they must hold to.

**THEN** read or have a student read Hebrews 13:4. When you've finished, explain that Hebrews is a book of the Bible that was written over a thousand years after Genesis was written. Yet we see Hebrews uphold God's standard for sex and marriage. Ask students to respond to this verse using the following question:

- **What do you think this passage means when it mentions keeping the wedding bed pure?**

*Answer:* It is again upholding God's ideal for holding off on having sex until marriage. Keeping the marriage bed pure seems to directly address those who are engaged or betrothed to marry. But it supports the idea that sex outside of marriage is not part of God's plan.

**NEXT** read or have a student read Song of Solomon 2:7. Ask:

- **How does this verse support what we've been talking about so far?**

*Answer:* Explain that while the language may seem rather poetic, it seems to be saying the same thing: there's a proper time for sexual desire, and that time is within the boundaries of marriage. To "awaken" it too soon is against God's plan.

**THEN** instruct students to look at the "when" space under the column entitled "What God Says" on their Student Guide. Ask:

- **According to the Scripture we've just read, when is it good in God's eyes to have sex?**

*Answer:* Within a marriage.

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- Look at the other side of your Student Guide. Describe the attitude or the message you get from the world around you about when it's OK to have sex.

Answer: Answers may include: anytime you're in love; as long as you know the person; when you're "old enough."

**FINALLY** >> ask students why they think there's such a great difference between what the world says about sex and sexuality and what God says. Help them understand that as Christ-followers, their attitude must be that of Christ. Remind them that just because the world around us projects a popular attitude or understanding about a certain issue, it's not OK to merely go with the flow. Being a follower of Christ means taking a stand for their convictions. Explain that today they've learned the biblical basis for God's intention for sex. It's their responsibility to begin to conform their actions and attitudes to meet His standard.

## Wrap Up

[Ym360 Note: Because of the subject matter of *Live Different*, we wanted to provide you with some gender-specific discussion questions so you can break-up your discussion into a guys' and a girls' group. If you choose, these gender-specific small group questions are on the pages following the activity below. If you would prefer not to break into gender-specific groups, teach *Align With God* to drive home the lesson's application.]

**Title:** Align With God

**Goal:** The idea is to help students understand why it's important that their convictions, attitudes, and behaviors line up with God's desires for His people.

**Set Up:** No set-up needed.

**FIRST** >> call on two volunteers to help you demonstrate a concept to the group. (If you're teaching a mixed-gender group, this would be a great time to call one guy volunteer and one girl volunteer.) Once you've identified your volunteers, propose the following scenario to them:

- Since we've been talking about relationships, I want you to think for a moment what you would consider to be the perfect first date, that one-in-a-million experience that would tell your date that no one was in your league. Money is no object! Really think of what the absolutely perfect first date would be. Where would you eat? What would you do after dinner? What kind of activity would you attend or do? What special touches would you include to really make your date stand out?

After giving your students a moment to think about it, have your volunteers share their dream date. When one volunteer has gone, allow the group to respond. Ask if this is their idea of a dream date. If they disagree, ask why. Ask the group what they would change. Have a little fun with this. Have the second volunteer share and then do the same thing, allowing the group to respond.

**THEN** >> take a moment and compare differences between the two volunteers' ideal dates, and highlight any differences the group might have brought to the discussion. Then ask the following questions:

- If you want to pull off a perfect date, do you have to follow one of these volunteer's way of doing it?

Answer: Of course not!

- Why is this a good thing?

Answer: We're all individuals. We each have our own personalities that dictate what we would want in a perfect date.

**NEXT** >> explain that if one is a follower of Christ, it's a little different when it comes to our beliefs. Explain that when it comes to our convictions and how we act on them, we must strive to live in such a way that aligns with God's character.

Lead your students in a brief discussion. Ask:

- Based on what we looked at in this lesson (the difference between what God says is a right expression of sex versus what the world says), what are some examples of practical ways your actions and attitudes could reflect your faith in God as opposed to your desire to view sex the way the world does? What do you or could you do to show the world that you see sex and sexuality differently?

Answer: Answers might include: Commit to having godly relationships by not being sexually intimate or active before marriage. Don't go see movies that you know will have sex scenes or that will have a lot of sexual humor. Don't listen to music that glorifies sex or hyper-sexualized attitudes. Be responsible in how you present your body to the opposite sex. Commit to staying far away from Internet porn (and friends who don't share your beliefs), and so on.

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- **Why is it so important to live in such a way? Why does it matter that you have the same attitude that God has when it comes to sex?**

*Answer:* Sex saturates our society. If you take a strong stand against the sexual attitudes of our culture, you'll make a statement that you're different. When you do this, people will want to know why. You'll have tremendous opportunities to talk to people about why your faith motivates your actions. Furthermore, you will be in the position to one day fully experience sex as God intends.

**FINALLY** explain to students that this lesson is introductory. The takeaway was for them to understand what God desires and how they can continue to, or begin to, live according to these desires. Challenge students to keep these things in mind between now and the next lesson and to take note of how the world portrays sex and sexuality in ways that are counter to God's view of sex.

Explain to students that you'll be posting two of the *Live Different* digi-posters to encourage conversation between lessons. Decide ahead of time how you will post these, whether through email, Facebook message, Facebook group page, or through your youth group's website. Challenge students to check in, read and think about the content, and to interact (if there's a method for interaction such as a Facebook wall, comment section on a blog, and so on).

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU . . .

Do you have questions about a lesson?

Something that worked particularly well you want to share?

Something that didn't work you want to bring up?

**We value your feedback!** Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at [feedback@youthministry360.com](mailto:feedback@youthministry360.com).



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## *Guy's And Girl's Discussion Questions*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR GUYS

- If you're honest, how hard is it to keep a godly attitude about sex and sexuality as a teenage guy in the world you live in? What are some reasons why it is so challenging?
- What are some real ways you can try and deal with, or even limit, the temptations you face when it comes to sexual images or sexual content in media such as TV, movies, the Internet, etc.?
- When it comes to dating and relationships, is the pressure from friends or classmates to have sex something you are dealing with? How does it affect your relationships?
- From a spiritual standpoint, we know sex outside of marriage is against God's will for us. What are some very practical reasons sex outside of marriage is not in your best interests?
- In many cases, you set the tone for the sexual "atmosphere" of your relationship with a girl. How does having a godly attitude toward sex and sexuality in your relationships show girls that you respect them?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR GIRLS

- If you're honest, as a teenage girl how hard is it to keep a godly attitude about sex and sexuality in the world you live in? What are some reasons why it is so challenging?
- How do you see TV shows, movies, or even magazines romanticize sex and sexuality? How often do you see the consequences of sex outside of marriage shown? How does this affect your view of sex and sexuality?
- Our culture puts so much emphasis on sexuality and sexiness, especially as it pertains to women. If you look around you, a woman's "sexiness" is portrayed as a vital part of her identity. How does this go against what God intends for sexuality?
- How does this make you feel? Do you feel pressure to live up to the "standard" of sexuality that culture portrays? When it comes to dating and relationships, is the pressure from friends or classmates to have sex something you are dealing with? How does it affect your relationships?
- In many cases, you set the tone for the sexual "atmosphere" of your relationship with a guy. How does having a godly attitude toward sex and sexuality in your relationships show guys that you respect them?

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**SCRIPTURE FOCUS:** Genesis 2:20-25, Hebrews 13:4, Song of Solomon 2:7

## WHAT GOD SAYS

Who?

When?

## WHAT CULTURE SAYS

Who?

When?