


## STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ How has this message series been influencing your thoughts or observations over the last couple of weeks?
- ❖ What's the most graphic example you've seen of the pain and destruction on a marriage/home because someone looked for greener grass? What thoughts or truths from this message do you wish you'd known when you were in High School? What ideas from this message would you like to understand better?
- ❖ What suggestions could you offer of practical ways we can train ourselves for faithfulness? What motivates you the most about this character trait?
- ❖ Some people (even Christians) mock the idea of putting hedges or boundaries in place to guard moral purity – why do you think that is? What are some safeguards you've adopted for yourself that you're comfortable sharing?
- ❖ What will be your biggest take-away from this message? What commitments do you feel compelled to make in order for faithfulness and moral purity to be seen in your life? How can your group pray for you in this?

 A fascinating discussion will be had (and perhaps humorous) if you ask your kids to think about what sort of qualities they would look for in someone they would want to marry. Point out that it's important to think about the kind of person we might someday want to marry. Then turn the table and ask them what kind of person they would want to be as a future husband or wife. As its appropriate, explain to your children your own commitment to marriage and why divorce is something to be avoided. If your own home has been affected by this, be careful that you don't paint a former spouse in a negative light, as this *always* produces pain in children to hear a parent they love criticized. Seek to show love and concern for the person to model God's own concern. Finish with a time of prayer asking God's help in growing as he desires that we should.

Bible Versions: NIV-New International; NAS-New American Standard; NLT-New Living Translation;  
CEV-Contemporary English; TEV-Today's English; ESV-English Standard



October 1 & 2, 2011

## “Affair-Proof Your Marriage”

*Ecclesiastes 6:9 (TEV)* It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else.

*Proverbs 12:11 (NIV)* He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.

### What's the big deal?

➡ He's saving us from \_\_\_\_\_.

*Proverbs 20:17 (CEV)* The food you get by cheating may taste delicious, but it turns to gravel.

*Proverbs 6:32-33 (NIV)* A man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself. Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away.

➡ He's guarding against \_\_\_\_\_.

*Malachi 2:13-16 (NIV)* The LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. “I hate divorce,” says the LORD God of Israel, “and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment,” says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.

# What's the big deal?

1. T\_\_\_\_\_ yourself for \_\_\_\_\_.

*1 Timothy 4:7-8 (NAS)* Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

*1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 (ESV)* For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things...For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

*2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV)* Let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.



2. E\_\_\_\_\_ yourself as \_\_\_\_\_.

☛ Knowing \_\_\_\_\_.

His

Hers



☛ Showing \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

*Ephesians 5:33 (NIV)* Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

3. P\_\_\_\_\_ yourself by \_\_\_\_\_!

*Proverbs 22:3 (NLT)* A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

*Proverbs 5:15-19 (NAS)* Drink water from your own cistern and fresh water from your own well...Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love.

4. I\_\_\_\_\_ yourself in \_\_\_\_\_.

Recommended Reading List:

*The Five Love Languages*, Gary Chapman

*His Needs, Her Needs*, Willard Harley

*Love & Respect*, Emerson Eggerichs

*The Relationship Cure*, John Gottman & Joan DeClaire

*Hedges: Loving Your Marriage Enough to Protect it*, Jerry Jenkins

*The Myth of the Greener Grass*, J. Allen Peterson

*Intended for Pleasure*, Ed & Gaye Wheat