



Study Guide

For Group
Or Personal
Bible Study

Commitment

Week of April 19, 2009

Warm-Up

What advice did you receive from your parents about marriage?

Opening Prayer

Leader or conversational prayer: Welcome God into your study; praise Him for His faithfulness and thank Him that His mercies (giving us what we need not what we deserve) are “new every morning.”

Study

- Last week you were asked to share one practical, yet relational way you can show your love by your actions this past week. (You were also asked to be ready to share your experience this week – here’s your chance.)
- In Sunday’s message about relational commitment, we focused on the problem of affairs and immorality in relationships. Share any insights, applications or questions you took from that teaching.
- Take turns reading through Proverbs 5. (Don’t read in a circle and no one has to read. Good divisions are: 1-6, 7-14, 15-20, 21-23)
- Proverbs 5 is filled with word pictures. Do they enhance the passage for you or detract from it? What’s the main point?
- Why is adultery appealing to some? (vv.3-4, 7-8,12-13, 20-22)
- What helps Mr. Proverbs Guy resist?

- What consequences does sowing a permissive lifestyle reap? (vv.9-11, 14)
- What are the benefits of drinking “from your own well?” (vv.15ff)

Discussion

- What has been the most influential in your understanding of sexual Dos and Don’ts? What was lacking in your sexual preparation for adulthood and/or marriage?
- What causes someone to think the “grass is greener on the other side of the fence?” Do you think husbands and wives are tempted by the same things or in the same ways?
- Martin Luther said (about sexual temptation): *We can’t do anything about the birds flying over our head, but we can prevent them building a nest in our hair.* How does that metaphor fit your experience? How does it fit Proverbs 5?
- “If only I knew then what I know now.” What sexual or relational advice did you initially reject, but later accepted as sound?
- Proverbs says the adulteress doesn’t even realize her “trail” is crooked. (v.6) If you were going down a crooked trail, would you want someone to correct you? Who? How?
- What difference will v.21 make in your future thoughts and decisions regarding sexual thoughts and even sex itself?

Closing Prayer

Conversational prayer: voice your requests to God and others; ask God for strength and wisdom to keep your relational commitments.

Resources For Digging Deeper

Close Calls! What Adulterers Want You to Know About Protecting Your Marriage – Dave Carder
Avoiding The Greener Grass Syndrome – Nancy C. Anderson
Every Heart Restored, Book & Workbook - Stephen Arterburn, Fred Stoeker, Brenda Stoeker
Torn Asunder: Recovering From An Extra-Marital... – Dave Carder