

## Leaders' Guide, BS 10: Living to please God

**Goal:** To look at our call as Christians to live lives that please God, especially in the area of our sex lives.

**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

*Leaders: Alright, this can be a fun but hard study to lead. My main challenge for you is to deal honestly with the Lord about this before you prep or lead it. Also, have some people praying for you this week, since you may be spiritually attacked in this area. Obviously this is an area that takes a lot of Christians out, so it is one you want to cover well and with lots of prayer. Hopefully there are non-believers in your study. Please make sure they know that they are not expected to clean up their life. What they need is to accept Christ's death for their sins. Once a follower of Christ, this is what is expected of them...*

### Getting to Know You (15 minutes)

Getting to know you

This study should fall after the Gray Areas study which probably opened up the door for a discussion on sexuality. Depending on your audience, you can decide on an opening question...

### Bible discussion

☐ *Hook:*

How does our culture view sex?  
Where do we get most of our views on sexuality?  
What does our culture say about how sex affects our relationships with others.

☐ *Book & Look 1:*

We are going to look at a passage from a book of the Bible called 1 Thessalonians. Thessalonica was a city that was famous for its immorality. Wives were expected to be faithful to their husband, but men were expected to have many sexual partners. This area was more promiscuous than our society. This passage would have shocked the people in that city.

Read 1 Thess 4:1-8

- ☐ What is the main point that the author, Paul, trying to communicate? *Living to please God!*
- ☐ Why would a Christian want to please God?
- ☐ Why is this a solid foundation for determining how we live?
- ☐ What are some other things that determine how we live?
- ☐ What is the connection between the a Christian being holy and their sexual behavior?

☐ There are other things that affect holiness besides sexual immorality. Why is he making a big deal about this one?

☐ How do you define sexual immorality?

☐ *The original word is porenia, which is where we get the word pornography. It generally means any sexual activity outside of marriage.*

☐ What kind of insight does the text give us about sexual immorality?

☐ *You will want to look more closely at 4-6a and discuss what he is trying to communicate. Just a surface reading talks about lust, and wronging your brother by taking advantage of them...*

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☐ What are the consequences of sexual immorality?

☐ *Took:*

☐ So the big question is HOW can we live that please God by being sexually pure and holy?

☐ *Here it is important to look at the text. So often as Christians we just try to make up new rules to follow. The key to being holy is to do it God's way. There are at least 2 major clues found in this text:*

☐ *1. Verse 5 implies a contrast between people that live in passionate lust and those that do not. The implication here is that if we know God, we will be different than those that do not. The key is not just knowing about God, but truly knowing Him! You can talk about the importance of being in the Word and getting to know God. A call to holiness is not a call to stop sinning, but to turn to God from sin. To pursue God! It is key that we do not just make up rules here. We need to desire and pursue God. This happens through the Bible, prayer, fellowship and outreach...*

☐ *2. Verse 8 lays out the other key. We are filled with the Holy Spirit!! If you have not done the Holy Spirit Bible studies, then you should head there next week. If you have done them, then you will want to see what people remember about being filled. The power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us!!!*

☐ What do we do if we have blown it?

☒ *The study about sin (#3) directed you to 1 John 1:8,9. You may want to look at this verse and allow for a time of silent confession and repentance. There is no sin too big for God to forgive. We do not need to be carrying around guilt. Part of the path to holiness is to realize that God has set you free!!! I know I have preached a lot in this one. I do it since I know many of you leading this study have struggled greatly and maybe even recently with this.*

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☒ End with prayer!!

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### **Announcements:**

**Christmas Conference is coming up! Be sure to talk about it.**