



JOURNEY – April 14th Teaching 6-7 Grade (Chris Miller)

Tonight we're continuing our powerful conversation about God's design for sex. If you were here last week, you'll remember we started this whole thing off by taking a look at a really old movie called "The Gods Must Be Crazy." It was this pretend documentary about a tribe in Africa...do you guys want to see that movie clip again?! Let's check it out...

MOVIE CLIP – "GOD'S CRAZY"

So the movie starts out and this guy flying his plane over this remote tribal group of people finishes his coke and chucks the bottle out the window.

Now the tribal people think the plane is a god and suddenly this thing lands on the ground right in front of one of the tribal men. He assumes that this beautiful thing that he's never seen before is a gift from a god!

So then we saw his tribe and they don't know what to do with it. They start using it for all kinds of things. They're so happy. They're using it like a rock and grinding the corn meal with the bottle...they're rubbing snakeskin over this bottle to make it nice and smooth for whatever they're going to use the snakeskin for and they're all smiling having a great time. Pretty soon this bottle is all anybody thinks about. But they never thought to put water in it and drink out it like it was made for. They're just using it for all kinds of stuff. Pretty soon they start arguing over it and people are getting jealous about the bottle. Then we saw the ladies fighting over it and the one lady picks it up and smacks the other lady over the head with the bottle! The tribal guy who found the bottle is now thinking, "The gods must be crazy to give us a gift that would cause us so much confusion and so much hurt!"

So last week we talked about how that story is a lot like sex today. Sex is a gift from God. But oftentimes people misunderstand it. They misuse it. Sometimes we think, "God, what are we supposed to do with something like sex? It seems like it just causes so much trouble, yet it's such a big part of life? God, You must be crazy!"

Very few things are more important than getting a really good understanding of this topic of sex. It's not meant to be a confusing or hurtful or even a problem from God. It's meant to be a super cool thing in a marriage relationship. **God has a design for sex, and His design is always the best.**

So then last week, we talked about a couple of myths about sex. What's a myth? That's right...something people believe even though it's completely not true. Like how many of you think that if you run in the rain to get inside, you get less wet? IT'S NOT TRUE. I saw a Mythbusters show on it, and running gets you just as wet cause more rain hits you in the front! I believed that one for a really long time! But it's a myth. Anyway...

The first myth we talked about was – **God thinks sex is BAD**

But we can see in the Bible, it's just not true...

Genesis 2:24

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

1 Timothy 4:4

...For everything God created is good.

Everything God created is good. God created sex. Sex is not a bad thing. Sex is good...in a *marriage* relationship.

BUT, we can twist it. We can take what God intended for good and make it bad, make it wrong. Just like that Coke bottle...it could have been a great bottle for drinking, but instead it was used in the wrong way and used to hurt someone. That's what happens when we don't use God's plan for sex and the consequences are life-long.

Then myth #2 we looked at was – **Sex outside of marriage is fine if you feel ready for it.**

This is so far from the truth! God has a plan for sex, and it's for us to enjoy it in marriage someday with our husband or wife.

It's called abstinence. To abstain – to hold off...to wait until marriage to have sex. You know, someday one of your friends might say, "That's a joke. It's impossible. Nobody can wait until they're married to have sex." But they are so wrong. You CAN wait.

And why is it worth waiting for? Because sex is SACRED. Remember last week we saw the Indiana Jones clip and we talked about how they risked their lives for this sacred cup, the Holy Grail, because it would save Indy's dad and it was a sacred piece of history. Sex is just like that...its sacred. Look at what Hebrews says...

Hebrews 13:4 (The Message Bible)

Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual sex.

Its precious, it's incredibly valuable. God has made sex sacred and He hates casual sex outside of marriage. The greatest gift you can give your future husband or wife someday is your purity. You can love them now, before you even know who they are.

We were designed to be joined as husband and wife in this amazing way called sex. But if we create that bond before marriage things get really messed up. Even if you think you really love them. So last week I showed this **Stickers illustration...** when you stick two stickers together then pull them apart...what happens? They shred and tear and don't stick well any more. They are meant to stick well, but stick only once. Just like us in marriage. Sex is a powerful bond, and if we bond before we are supposed it, all kinds of terrible things can happen.

You'll see on TV that people have sex all the time before they are married. They make it seem so normal! But what they don't show you is the hurt and pain when those relationships end. See, that bond was never meant to break! They also don't show you the pregnancies, abortions, or sexually transmitted diseases. These things will change your life completely, forever!

God is not trying to make our lives more difficult...he's trying to help us avoid huge amounts of suffering! Sex outside of marriage brings deep heartache, diseases that can kill you, pregnancy, broken families, abortions, single parent homes...guys these consequences are huge!! Can you think of any thing worth all that suffering?! God has a plan, and his plan is best.

Even if you REALLY love someone, you'll choose to wait. That's the best way to show them that you really love them...you're willing to wait.

And then finally, last week I challenged the girls, that if a guys ever tries to pressure you into something you don't want to do, what do you say? That's right...BYE BYE.

And guys, last week I challenged you, that if you friends someday start talking about sex like it makes you more of a man to have sex now, you'll tell them...REAL MEN WAIT. Waiting makes you more of a man. Not waiting makes you more like my dog. My dog is the one who can't control his sexual desires. REAL MEN WAIT.

So for the rest of this week, I want to quickly talk about **a few new things**.

First, you must understand that sexual purity isn't always easy...you have to PURSUE it; make it a goal! Seriously, it can be so difficult.

Just like anything else worth having, you have to work hard at it. And you have to DECIDE to pursue it. It's a lot like my favorite scene from a movie called, Facing the Giants.

MOVIE CLIP – "FACING THE GIANTS"

Just like any sport, or skill, staying pure for God takes work, and good habits, and training. Did you see how much heart Brock had in that video clip? That is the same kind of heart we need to be having for God. God can give you a heart that is like Brock's one that can help you fight that battle against temptations; you just have to want it, and ask God for it.

So here are some practical steps:

1. Don't fill your **MIND** with sexual things
 - *Keep your mind just as pure as your body*
 - *What you put in your mind will affect the way you view sex*
 - *Most of what you see and hear on TV, in movies, and in music only fills your mind with lies about what sex really is...IT WILL AFFECT YOU.*
 - *Your friends will be talking about these things sometimes, and it is up to you whether you decide to keep those things in your mind or keep them out*

Don't lie to yourselves that what you see and hear doesn't really affect you. It does! If you've ever cussed...where did that come from? You heard it all around you, and the more you hear it, the more it's in your brain and eventually it comes out! Sexual things are just like. The more you fill your brain in inappropriate images, or lies about how sex is, the more it will taint your view on sex and tempt you to not follow your standards.

Here's what the Bible says about this:

Titus 1:15

To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

2. Avoid **TEMPTING** sexual situations
 - Don't put yourself in tempting places.
 - If you get in a bad situation...RUN!
 - If your friends bring out a magazine you shouldn't be looking at
 - If you are by yourself watching TV and you turn on something you shouldn't be watching

2 Timothy 2:22

But run away from the evil young people like to do. Try hard to live right and to have faith love and peace, together with those who trust in the Lord from pure hearts.

3. Make **CHRIST** your most important relationship
 - Christ is the true satisfaction and love we all want

The world teaches us that the outside is more important than the inside. That's why we try to impress each other, or look good for each other...we think that if we're good at something, or look really attractive, that we'll earn someone's attention. But that's actually one of those myths we talked about. The lie is that the outside matters more than the inside. The TRUTH is, our hearts, our insides, our purity, matters so much more. And that's the way Christ sees us...and that's why our relationship to Him is so satisfying and fulfilling. He gives us the love and affection we're truly searching for.

Decide today that you are going to make Christ the most important relationship in your life. If it isn't the most important relationship in your life, you are bound to fail.

Christ must be the most important relationship in your life!

1 Samuel 16:7

God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person but the Lord looks at the heart.

- He has the strength to help us stay pure...so stay close to Him!

Christ is just like that coach in Facing the Giants. He's right there beside you, challenging you and helping you..."Don't give up, don't give up, don't give up!" And with His strength we can BE pure and follow God's design for sex to be saved for marriage. And His design is always best.

1. God FORGIVES

Psalms 103:13

He has removed our rebellious acts as far away from us as the east is from the west.

1 John 1:9

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.

