



JOURNEY – April 21 Outline 6-12 grades (Mark Howard)

MEANT 2 LIVE INTRO:

(Meant 2 Live VIDEO)

This year we're learning how God has an intended design for life, and it's best.

- We know there is something so much more than what we see around us
- Life lived outside God's version of life leads to so much pain and heart ache

SEX RECAP:

Sex is one of the biggest ways we miss God's intended design for life.

- Sex has been so **DISTORTED**...

MYTH - Sex is no BIG DEAL

- Don't we see this message constantly on TV, in movies and music?
- That version of love and sex is **TWISTED** and **FAKE**
- Why is sex actually a very big deal? LIFE-LONG CONSEQUENCES

TRUTH – Sex is the strongest and MOST SACRED expression of love

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.

MYTH - Everyone is DOING IT

- Sometimes it seems like you are the only one in the world saving sex for marriage

TRUTH – Everyone is NOT doing it!

- In 2005, [researchers from the National Center for Health Statistics](#) found that 47% of teens (6.7 million) were having sex.
- IT IS POSSIBLE! I was tempted too...but it is possible to save sex for marriage

Myth – REAL MEN have sex whenever they want.

- If having sex whenever you want, outside of marriage, describes the sexual instincts of a dog, why does that make you more of a man?
- Waiting till marriage to have sex is the **MORE** manly thing to do

Truth – REAL MEN care enough about their girlfriend to NOT have sex.

- Real men want more than just their girlfriend's bodies
- Real men are patient and wait to have sex in marriage
- Real men make sure their relationships stay pure...take responsibility

Myth – Sex is the best way for a girl to feel LOVED and DESIRED

- We all long to feel loved & desired, but sex before marriage isn't where it's found
- "If you love me..." is a stupid reason for a guy to convince you to have sex
 - o If he REALLY loved you, he would wait until marriage and not pressure you

TRUTH – Outside of marriage, sex is a FAKE and TWISTED version of love

- Real love is found in GOD, your closest FRIENDS, and your FAMILY
- Real love is found in the great culmination of a lifelong commitment...marriage

God created sex and His design is to enjoy sex in marriage!

LAST WEEK REVIEW: Boundaries

Boundaries allow us to ENJOY our relationships in the context of what is safe.

- Without boundaries, that's when life becomes a wreck...like at NASCAR.

FIRST, what is your motivation?

- Why do we ask the question, "How far is too far?" What are we looking for?

Is your motivation to see how far you can go, or what you can get away with?

- If it is, then your natural instincts to cross those lines will eventually win.

Is this a better question, and why?

"How can I make boundaries so I don't go too far AND honor God in this relationship?"

- We need to be asking for God's help to stay **as far away as possible** from those things we know will only harm us. Not how close we can get.

SECOND, understand the further you go, the faster and further you want to go

- After you cross one line, the next line is crossed even sooner
- God built us keep going! Don't start that fire yet...
- It is such a SLLIPERY SLOPE
- **So difficult to go back...you don't want that kind of intense the temptation**
- How much do you want to have to resist?

LASTLY, Commit to a boundary plan

BE SPECIFIC! –

- Will be alone in a car or bedroom?
- Will we kiss? If so, what kind of kissing and for how long?
- Will we always keep the lights on?

Tell someone else and ask for accountability

- You can't do this alone...

Agree on it with your boyfriend or girlfriend

- You must BOTH be on the same page or you will fall into temptation
- **Get out if your boyfriend or girlfriend isn't on the same page!**
- If you're not on the same page you WILL do things you regret
- No relationship, no boy, no girl, is worth making sexual mistakes

Going outside God's design for sex...is not ok!

John 14:21

Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.

1 Corinthians 6:18

Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.

1 Peter 1:13-16

So think clearly and exercise self-control...you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living...You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.

It's time to make a change. It's time to live the life God has called you to live.

DO YOU WANT TO BE PURE?

Tonight is about giving you practical tools to help keep you pure in relationships.

THIS WEEK: Making a commitment to sexual purity

Purity isn't always EASY...you have to PURSUE it and make it your goal. FIGHT for it.

1. Decide **NOW** on your **STANDARDS** and **BOUNDARIES**

- Decide NOW...don't wait until you're in a tempting situation to decide
- Don't let your friends convince you otherwise...be committed no matter what
- Don't make it a secret to others, don't hide it

2. Choose **WISELY** who you will date

2 Corinthians 6:14

You are not the same as those who do not believe [in Jesus]. So do not join yourselves to them. Good and bad do not belong together. Light and darkness cannot share together.

- Just like our friends, our **dating relationships are a HUGE INFLUENCE on us**
- If you're not on the same page you **WILL** do things you regret
- **It's so much easier to be pulled down, then for us to pull others up**

(Chair ILLUSTRATION)

3. Avoid **TEMPTING** situations

(Kid Marshmallow VIDEO)

- *Don't stick yourself alone in a room with a marshmallow! OR your boyfriend*
- **Even if you're both committed to purity...with enough temptation you'll fail!**
- You're not immune to temptation! If you play with fire, eventually you'll get burned

Proverbs 6:27

Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?

4. Don't fill your **MIND** with sexual things

What you put into your mind deeply affects who you are! It matters!

Our mind determines what's right and what's wrong...

1 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.

Our mind is how God shapes our lives to honor Him...

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is...

I have to brutally honest...you guys are dumping filth into your minds

Stop and think about the music you listen to...

- Would you play your music in the church van?

Stop and think about the movies and TV you've watched this year

- Would you take Jesus to see that movie too?

What you put into your mind deeply affects who you are! It matters!

(Sponge with water vs. filth ILLUSTRATION)

If you're pouring sexual music and movies into your brain...that's what will come out of you

In particular...guys, there is no faster way to destroy your mind and your commitment to purity than to look at pornography

- It's an addiction, no different than drugs...run from it!
- Pornography ruins your relationships, view of women and future marriage
- www.settingcaptivesfree.com or email me for where to start for help

5. Make **CHRIST** your most important relationship

- Is He most important in your schedule each day?
- Are you spending time each day getting to know God and reading His Word?
- Are you trusting Him each day? Trusting His version of life really is best?
- Do you believe in His promises to love you, help you, and never leave you?
- Are you more concerned about pleasing God...or pleasing your boyfriend or girlfriend?
- Are your values and standards based on God's version of life?
- Are you relying on God for strength when life is really hard?
- Is God the one who defines what good or right in your life?
- Are you asking Him how you can live a life that honors Him?

(Where Your Heart is DRAMA)

THE TRUTH ABOUT MISTAKES

We need God's help to stop making mistakes...we can't do it on our own

Romans 7:18-19

I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.

STARTING OVER

1. Ask for, and accept, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Psalm 32:3, 5

Finally, I confessed all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide them...And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Psalm 103:13

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

2. Forgive YOURSELF

2 Corinthians 5:17

...those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun.

3. Confide in a trusted FRIEND

James 5:16

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

4. Live like you're FORGIVEN

Psalm 32:1-2

Oh, what joy for those whose rebellion is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin...

If you've been the victim of Sexual Abuse...

1. It's not your fault
2. Seek help; don't suffer in silence
3. There is hope
4. God cares about your pain

For many of you, tonight is about starting over.

- And you can start over...commit to saving sex from this day forward
- DO WHATEVER IT TAKES to get out of your sexual habits or relationships

Hopefully for the rest of you, tonight is about making a commitment to save sex for marriage and AVOID those mistakes.

(Commitment Cards & Chain links (you and God only until marriage))

Take this card and chain links home.

- Think about it, pray about it, and decide on your own

PARENTS

I want to encourage you to talk to your teens about sex

- Ask if they are considering making this commitment
- Don't pressure them...they have to decide for themselves
- Answer any questions, and encourage them

For some of you though, this commitment may uncover some mistakes...

- If your teen is brave enough to share their failures, greet them with grace
- Of course natural consequences may follow, but soak it with love

Help your teen make a NEW commitment to purity, to truly start over

When your teen is ready, celebrate their commitment

- Plan a time to mark the moment of this commitment
- Purchase a ring, necklace, or other symbol of this commitment

(Parent hand-outs)

(Worship Music, and youth come up front to receive cards and chain links)