

March 8
WEEK 2

OUTSIDE OF SMALL GROUP

DATES AND TIMES

LIFE & LOVE IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD

Transitions

SERIES OVERVIEW

Middle School is an interesting time for students. This is especially true when it comes to the topic of sex. It's during middle school that students become aware of the idea, understand some of the details, and sense emotions stirring within. This is also a perplexing time for the parents and adults who support these students during this time. Nervousness, embarrassment, and fear overwhelm many adults as they try to navigate these confusing waters with students, oftentimes causing them to avoid these discussions. That means they end up learning about such an important topic from their friends, who think they know what they're talking about, and culture, whose messages are quite opposite those we find in the Bible. For the rest of the month, we want to talk about "Life and Love in the Middle School World."

March 1

God wants what's best for you.

March 8

Things done in secret have the potential to master us.

March 15

Don't sexualize any relationship.

March 22

Creating boundaries now will set you up for God's best for you later.

TODAY IN LARGE GROUP

There is an aspect of this subject that students seem to struggle with that is not public. It's not because they have a new boyfriend or because the group dared them. No, as a student's sexuality awakens for the first time in these formative years, many students find themselves becoming slaves to private habits, activities, or practices. For some, it's cutting, others pornography, still other students find themselves struggling with eating disorders. While these addictions might seem unrelated, they all deal with the same issue—a student has allowed himself or herself to be mastered by something. And those new masters can be destructive physically and decay the students' understanding of their worth in God's eyes.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12–13:

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything . . . The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

BOTTOM LINE

Things done in secret have the potential to master us.

QUESTION FROM THE STAGE

Name a habit that someone might justify by saying, "Yeah, but it doesn't hurt anyone, so it's okay."

- What kinds of things do middle schoolers you know keep secret?
- Which of these do you think is the biggest challenge for your group of friends? (*Cutting, eating disorders, pornography*)
- How does keeping something secret complicate solving the problem?
- How would you tell a friend today, "That is not a beneficial habit"?
- In what areas of life do we use the word "mastered"? Is that the idea Paul wants us to be thinking of when he wrote this verse?
- A simple version of verse 13 would be: "The body is meant for the Lord and the Lord for the body." What do you think Paul is trying to tell us in that verse?
- Is there anything in your life that has the potential to be a "master" of you?
- How would you know if your life was being mastered by a habit and you were living "out of control"?
- Finish this sentence: "I would be able to fight this temptation a lot better if this group would help me ____."

WRAP IT UP

Leaders: Send your students a text or note this week thanking them for handling this topic so well in group and for being willing to share.