



TEACHER'S GUIDE
Grades 7-8

What About . . .

Authorized by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

*I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.*

John 8:12

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INTRODUCTION

Whether you are a parent, pastor, or teacher, you have been blessed by God with a special privilege and given a great responsibility. The Lord has placed into your hands the task of nurturing his lambs with his Holy Word. The following information will help you as you carry out your God-given task.

Scope: Christ-Light is a complete religion curriculum for youth from birth through grade 12. Christ-Light materials are designed for use in all educational agencies of a congregation. Therefore, it is important for the teachers of Sunday schools and Lutheran elementary schools, as well as high school Bible classes and Lutheran high schools, to coordinate their curriculum planning so that these programs complement rather than duplicate one another.

Characteristics of Students in This Age Group (Ages 12-14)

Mental development

- Can think abstractly
- Can delve more deeply into spiritual truths
- Can explore the application of spiritual truths in many different ways
- Can grasp where and when events took place
- Can concentrate for longer periods of time than before
- Can memorize easily

Emotional development

- Are becoming quite independent in forming personal attitudes and habits
- Can display irrational mood swings
- Are searching for identity and freedom
- Want to show that they are responsible

Social development

- Can work cooperatively in small groups
- Learn from words, actions, and opinions of their teachers
- Are greatly influenced by the words, actions, and opinions of their peers
- Tend to share less of what they are learning with parents
- Are beginning the process of becoming independent from their parents
- May test parental authority

Parent Involvement: Parent involvement is a very important element of Christ-Light. Student materials from birth through grade 6 contain written parent messages that help parents review Bible truths with their children. Since teens are becoming more independent learners, Christ-Light does not offer written parent messages at the seventh- and eighth-grade level. Since, however, parents continue to be some of the best teachers of their children, **Table Talk** activities offer suggestions for parent/student interaction. The teacher, therefore, should encourage parents of teens to continue teaching their children, but also urge them to support independent learning.

All the lessons have been written so that parents could teach them at home. Some training will be needed at the beginning, but the need for training will decrease as parents gain experience and confidence.

Memory Treasures: Bible passage, catechism, and hymn memory treasures are incorporated into the lessons. Memory treasures marked with a single asterisk are core for Sunday school, and those marked with two asterisks are additional core for Lutheran elementary schools.

Hymnology: Many Lutheran elementary school teachers use one day of the week to teach a hymn. Christ-Light incorporates the core hymns into the student lessons and suggests that they be taught as an integral part of the lesson. Those who prefer to use a day of the week to teach a hymn may still do so. All hymnal references are to *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* (CW) unless otherwise indicated.

General Supplies: Each student will need a Bible (NIV) and a hymnal (CW). The teacher will need an overhead projector and a chalkboard to carry out some of the suggested options and activities.

How to Teach the Lesson

Goals: Three goals have been developed for each lesson: a spiritual truth, a spiritual attitude, and a spiritual habit. It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will lead the students to know the spiritual truth and to adopt the spiritual attitude and the spiritual habit as part of their daily lives.

Teaching the Lesson

Introduction: (5 minutes) Use this section to develop interest in the lesson. The introduction should be interactive—encouraging the students to participate in discussion. A discussion activity is provided at the beginning of each lesson. However, because each group of students is unique, teachers should feel free to change the activity provided or to use an alternative activity that would effectively lead students into the aim of the lesson.

Aim: The aim of the lesson is stated in the form of a question. The Lesson Summary answers the aim question.

Lesson Sections: Each lesson is a Bible study. It is divided into three or four sections that develop the truth of the lesson. Each section contains the following elements: The Word, The Word in My Life, and the Illustration and Key Point.

The Word: (3 minutes) This element begins by preparing the students to study the key passage(s), which contain(s) the scriptural truth to be taught. This section may give background material or briefly review the verses that surround the key passage(s). The teacher should tell this section, rather than simply read it.

(5 minutes) The Word then penetrates the key passage(s). The scriptural truth found in the key passage(s) is the “meat” of each section. The questions encourage student discussion and are intended to develop deeper insight into the scriptural truth being taught. Teachers should feel free to add verbal illustrations as they teach this section.

Note: *Students may not be comfortable with this interactive approach. Teachers may, at first, need to develop one or two simpler questions to lead students into the higher level questions.*

The Word in My Life: (5 minutes) This element applies the truth of the section to the lives of the students. One or more applications are suggested in the teacher’s guide. Teachers may use one of

these applications or one of their own. Teachers should use an application that is meaningful to the particular group of students they are teaching. Space is provided in the student lesson for the students to write their responses to the application chosen.

Illustration and Key Point: Each section concludes with a concrete verbal illustration and the key point. The illustration should help the students understand and retain the key point being taught in the section. Teachers may use the illustration provided, or they may develop an illustration of their own. Rather than telling the key point, teachers may encourage the students to formulate it themselves. Space is provided in the student lesson for the students to write the key point.

Lesson Summary: The Lesson Summary ties the lesson together by answering the question that is asked in the aim and developed in the study of the key points. Rather than telling it, teachers may encourage the students to formulate the lesson summary themselves. Space is provided in the student lesson for the students to write the lesson summary.

Memory Treasures: These passages, chief parts of the catechism, and hymns apply to the lesson being taught. Use the explanation following each memory treasure to show how it relates to the truth of the lesson as well as to the students’ lives. Teachers are encouraged to assign the memory treasures that are suggested as core.

Lesson Activities: The Lesson Activities offer brief devotion ideas, parent involvement suggestions, review exercises, and lesson extension opportunities. Some activities include **Copy Masters**, which may be duplicated and distributed to the students. One copy master is an outline of the lesson. Teachers may use this as an overhead transparency as they teach the lesson.

Note: *Suggested teaching times are a guide and will vary from lesson to lesson.*

Memory Treasures

Catechism Memory Treasures

Ten Commandments, meanings, and conclusion
 Apostles' Creed—articles and meanings
 Lord's Prayer and meanings
 Sacrament of Holy Baptism—First and meaning
 Sacrament of Holy Communion—First and meaning

Hymn Memory Treasures

Hymn Category	Hymn Number	Hymn Title	SS Core	LES Core	Optional
Advent	2:1	Savior of the Nations, Come			✓
Christmas	38:1-3,13	From Heaven Above to Earth I Come			✓
Lent	103:1,2,6	Glory Be to Jesus			✓
Lent	111:1,2,5	Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing			✓
Easter	152:1-3,7,8	I Know that My Redeemer Lives		✓	
Ascension	170:1,3	Draw Us to Thee			✓
Ascension	173:1	On Christ's Ascension I Now Build			✓
Pentecost	183:1,3,4	Holy Spirit, Light Divine			✓
Reformation	200:1-4	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.....		✓	
End Time	208:1	Great God, What Do I See and Hear			✓
Worship and Praise	234:1,3	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty			✓
Word of God	282:1	Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear		✓	
Word of God	284:1,3,4	How Precious Is the Book Divine.....			✓
Word of God	293:1	God's Word Is Our Great Heritage			✓
Confession and Absolution	304:1,5,7	Jesus Sinners Does Receive	✓	✓	
Close of Service	319:1	On My Heart Imprint Your Image.....			✓
Close of Service	333:1,2	Abide, O Dearest Jesus			✓
Redeemer	348:1,4	Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus		✓	
Redeemer	358:1,2	How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds			✓
Justification	379:1,3	Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound.. ..			✓
Justification	391:1,3,4	God Loved the World So that He Gave			✓
Prayer	411:1,2	What a Friend We Have in Jesus	✓	✓	
Trust	422:1-4	Jesus, Lead Us On		✓	
Trust	429:1-3	What God Ordains Is Always Good.....	✓	✓	
Trust	432:1	I Am Jesus' Little Lamb			✓
Trust	436:1,2,4	Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep		✓	
Trust	441:1,3	O God, Our Help in Ages Past			✓
Commitment	469:1-3,6	Take My Life and Let It Be	✓	✓	
Commitment	478:1,2	With the Lord Begin Your Task.....		✓	
Stewardship	485:1,2	We Give Thee but Thine Own			✓
Christian Love	490:1-3	Love in Christ Is Strong and Living.....		✓	
Christian Home	506:1,3	Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall.....			✓
Missions	573:1,2,4	Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying	✓	✓	

Hymn Memory Treasures (continued)

Hymn Category	Hymn Number	Hymn Title	SS Core	LES Core	Optional
Evening	587:3,4	Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow		✓	
Evening	588:1,2,6,7	Abide with Me		✓	
Confirmation	596:1	Let Me Be Yours Forever		✓	
Death and Burial	606:1-3	For Me to Live Is Jesus		✓	
Thanksgiving	610:1-3	Now Thank We All Our God.....		✓	

Bible Passage Memory Treasures

SS Core	LES Core
Genesis 1:1	Genesis 1:1
Exodus 20:11a	Genesis 39:9b Exodus 20:11a Job 19:25-27
Psalms 37:5 Psalm 50:15 Psalm 51:5	Psalms 37:5 Psalm 50:15 Psalm 51:5 Psalm 103:1,2
Psalms 118:1 Psalm 119:105	Psalms 118:1 Psalm 119:105 Psalm 139:14 Psalm 145:15,16
Proverbs 3:5	Proverbs 3:5 Isaiah 41:10
Isaiah 43:11	Isaiah 43:11 Isaiah 64:6a Matthew 4:10b Matthew 6:33 Matthew 7:7 Matthew 11:28 Matthew 18:20 Matthew 22:37 Matthew 22:39b Matthew 26:41 Matthew 28:19 Matthew 28:19,20 Matthew 28:20b
Matthew 7:7 Matthew 11:28	Matthew 7:7 Matthew 11:28 Matthew 18:20 Matthew 22:37 Matthew 22:39b Matthew 26:41 Matthew 28:19 Matthew 28:19,20 Matthew 28:20b
Matthew 22:37 Matthew 22:39b Matthew 26:41 Matthew 28:19 Matthew 28:19,20 Matthew 28:20b	Matthew 22:37 Matthew 22:39b Matthew 26:41 Matthew 28:19 Matthew 28:19,20 Matthew 28:20b
Mark 16:16 Luke 11:28	Mark 10:45 Mark 16:16 Luke 11:28 Luke 18:13b John 1:29b John 3:16 John 5:39 John 11:25,26a
John 3:16	John 1:29b John 3:16 John 5:39 John 11:25,26a

Bible Passage Memory Treasures (continued)

SS Core	LES Core
<p>John 14:19b</p> <p>Romans 3:23</p> <p>Romans 6:23</p> <p>Romans 8:28</p> <p>Romans 10:17</p> <p>1 Corinthians 10:31</p> <p>Ephesians 2:8,9</p> <p>1 Timothy 2:3,4</p> <p>1 Peter 5:7</p> <p>1 John 1:7b</p> <p>Revelation 2:10b</p>	<p>John 14:19b</p> <p>Romans 1:16</p> <p>Romans 3:23</p> <p>Romans 3:24</p> <p>Romans 6:23</p> <p>Romans 8:28</p> <p>Romans 10:17</p> <p>1 Corinthians 10:31</p> <p>1 Corinthians 12:3b</p> <p>Galatians 3:26</p> <p>Galatians 3:27</p> <p>Galatians 4:4,5</p> <p>Ephesians 2:8,9</p> <p>Ephesians 4:32</p> <p>Ephesians 6:1</p> <p>1 Timothy 2:3,4</p> <p>2 Timothy 3:15</p> <p>2 Timothy 3:16</p> <p>Hebrews 11:1</p> <p>James 1:22</p> <p>1 Peter 5:7</p> <p>1 Peter 5:8</p> <p>1 John 1:7b</p> <p>1 John 3:15</p> <p>1 John 4:19</p> <p>Revelation 2:10b</p>

Homosexuality?

LESSON OVERVIEW

Goals

We pray that the student

knows this spiritual truth: Homosexuality is a sin that earns God's eternal punishment.

develops this spiritual attitude: Viewing homosexuals as fellow sinners who need God's forgiveness in Christ.

develops this spiritual habit: Reacting to homosexuals in a firm, yet loving manner, applying God's law and gospel in the proper situation.



What does God say about homosexuality?

Key Points

1. How does God define homosexuality?

God calls homosexuality sin.

2. What does God say about homosexuals?

God considers each homosexual a sinner worthy of eternal punishment.

3. How does God want us to treat homosexuals?

God wants us to treat homosexuals with love and lead them to see not only their sin, but also their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lesson Summary

Homosexuality is a sin that earns eternal punishment. Therefore, God wants us to reach out to homosexuals in a loving way and lead them to Christ, who died also for the sin of homosexuality.

Introduction

Gays on Parade

Suppose your town has an annual parade each summer. Any business or group can sponsor a float and march in the parade. This year a homosexual group in town decides to enter the parade. They build a float, and some of them dress up like clowns. They shake hands and hand out balloons as they walk along.

You notice that people react to these clowns in many different ways. Some openly support their cause. They cheer for them as the float goes by. And they are more than happy to shake hands with the clowns.

Others want nothing to do with them. A few even make snide remarks and refer to them with derogatory names.

Still others aren't quite as outspoken. Although they sense an awkward situation, they don't want to stand out in the crowd. They try to ignore the matter and quickly look at the next float.

What about us? How would we react in such a situation? That's a matter we want to discuss in this lesson. We will learn what God says about homosexuality.

Explanation

This introduction will help the students think about some of the different ways people react to homosexuality. Lead the students to begin thinking about how God wants them to react to homosexuality.



What does God say about homosexuality?

1. How does God define homosexuality?

(God calls homosexuality sin.)

the WORD

Some people think homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle. Yet they forget we human beings don't decide what is right and wrong. God tells us what is right and wrong in his Word. Let's look at what God says about homosexuality in both the Old and New Testaments.

Explanation

Our society has a different attitude toward homosexuality than it did a few generations ago. Then it was "in the closet"; now it is out in the open. However, God's laws haven't changed, as the following passages indicate.

Read Leviticus 20:13.

- a. In this verse the Lord is speaking about a man having sexual relations with another man. What does the Lord call such behavior?**

The Lord says such behavior is "detestable."

- b. What does it mean when something is "detestable"?**

When something is detestable, it is repulsive. God finds the sin of homosexuality repulsive. It turns his stomach and forces him to turn away in disgust.

Read Romans 1:26,27.

- c. Why does the apostle Paul refer to homosexuality as "unnatural"?**

Homosexuality uses the body in a way that is not natural. God created us male and female and ordained marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Homosexuality not only violates God's law, it also goes against the laws of nature.

- d. What words does Paul use to describe this unnatural act?**

Paul calls such behavior shameful lusts, indecent acts, and perversion. He uses strong language in referring to this sin.

the WORD in MY LIFE

Option 1

Respond to this statement: "I was born homosexual. Therefore, my homosexual feelings are natural."

Explanation

This statement has some truth to it because we are all born with a natural inclination toward sin. And different people have different sinful inclinations. Some are easily angered; some want to steal; some are strongly tempted to lie. However, God commands us to control those sinful thoughts and desires that occur naturally in our minds and not let them lead to sinful behavior.

Option 2

Suppose scientists discover a gene that causes homosexuality. Would that make it acceptable behavior? Explain.

Explanation

Even if some people would be "genetically predisposed" to some sin, that doesn't make that sin acceptable. Some people are more susceptible to alcoholism, yet that doesn't make the abuse of alcohol permissible for them. It is still sinful behavior.

Option 3

Jared told his friend: "I know that my homosexual feelings and actions are wrong, but I can't help it. They are impossible to control."

Explanation

Sin is impossible to control without Christ. But through his perfect life and sacrificial death, Jesus not only set us free from the eternal consequence of sin. He also set us free from the control of sin. As Jesus said: "Everyone who sins is a slave to sin. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:34,36). Further, God tells us he will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Use the illustration and key point to underscore the truth developed in this section.

Illustration

It's natural for birds to fly and fish to swim. God made these creatures function in that way. It was part of his plan at the beginning. However, it is not natural for a man to have sexual relations with a man or for a woman to have sexual relations with a woman. Such behavior violates the laws of nature

God established when he created them “male and female” (Genesis 1:27). Such behavior also violates God’s law that ordained marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Only a man and a woman are to become one flesh.

Key Point

God calls homosexuality sin.

2. What does God say about homosexuals?

(God considers each homosexual a sinner worthy of eternal punishment.)

the WORD

Homosexuality is not a new sin. It was practiced long ago in some cities called Sodom and Gomorrah. The people who lived there were so wicked that God destroyed them with fire and brimstone. However, the greatest punishment they suffered was not physical destruction. It was something much worse.

Explanation

Solomon states, “There is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). This also applies to homosexuality, which was practiced in Old Testament times.

Read Jude 7.

a. The writer Jude says the people of Sodom and Gomorrah serve as an example. How is this true?

The people of Sodom and Gomorrah show us that God does not tolerate sin. He is patient in dealing with sinners, but eventually he does call them to account for their sins. Galatians 6:7 emphasizes this truth: “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.”

b. What kind of punishment did these people receive?

These people didn’t just suffer a terrible physical death when the cities were destroyed by fire and brimstone. They also suffered eternal punishment in hell. These were the awful consequences of their sinful lifestyle.

c. Does this mean all homosexuals are eternally lost? Explain.

Those who repent of the sin of homosexuality

and look to Christ as their Savior can look forward to eternal life. To them the Lord says: “Take heart. Your sins are forgiven.” Those who continue in their sinful lifestyle and refuse to repent will face the same fate as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. They will be eternally lost.

the WORD in MY LIFE

Option 1

Evaluate: God hates homosexuals.

Explanation

God hates homosexuals just as he hates all sinners. The severe suffering Jesus endured during his passion shows how much God hates sin. It also shows the deep love God has for sinners, including homosexuals. He punished his Son in our place. Those who look to Christ as Savior have forgiveness and eternal life. Those who don’t will face all the hatred of God in hell. This is the paradox of the law and gospel. God hates and loves sinners at the same time.

Option 2

Agree or disagree: Even though a homosexual commits a terrible sin, a loving God would never send such a person to hell.

Explanation

It’s true that our loving God does not want “anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). That love prompted him to send his Son to pay for all the sins of the world. However, those who refuse that love stand condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son (John 3:18). God does not condemn them; they condemn themselves through their unbelief.

Option 3

Agree or disagree: Since God doesn’t destroy homosexuals today as he did at Sodom and Gomorrah, he no longer considers homosexuality a serious sin.

Explanation

Just because God is patient with sin doesn't mean he condones it. He and his law do not change. Further, the greatest punishment the people of Sodom and Gomorrah faced was not in this life but in the next. The same punishment awaits those who live a similar lifestyle today.

Option 4

Discuss some of the problems homosexuality causes in our society.

Explanation

Homosexuality causes many social, economic, and health-related problems. These would include the spread of AIDS, unhealthy homes for children, and an increase in medical costs. As is often the case, irresponsible, sinful behavior reaps costly consequences.

Use the illustration and key point to underscore the truths developed in this section.

Illustration

Imagine a place where everyone hates each other. People are constantly fighting and hurting one another. It's impossible to get a good night's sleep. The minute you fall asleep, someone tries to attack you or steal from you. To add insult to injury, you feel constant pain such as you have never felt before. You are hungry and thirsty. You can't stop crying. You are so miserable you wish you could die. But you can't. This gives us some idea of what hell is like. This is the punishment for sin: a place in hell for all eternity.

Key Point

God considers each homosexual a sinner worthy of eternal punishment.

3. How does God want us to treat homosexuals?

(God wants us to treat homosexuals with love and lead them to see not only their sin, but also their Savior, Jesus Christ.)

the WORD

God teaches that homosexuality is a sin. He also indicates that those who commit this sin are worthy of eternal punishment. But does that mean all homosexuals are eternally lost? Let's see how Jesus treated someone who was guilty of a sexual sin. This example will not only give us comfort when we fall into sin, but it also will teach us how to treat others who sin, including homosexuals.

Explanation

In the first two sections, we focused on the law. Now we will focus on the gospel. Both apply to homosexuality. It is a serious sin, but it is not an unforgivable sin. Jesus died also for the sin of homosexuality, as we will see in this section.

Read John 8:3-11.

a. Whom did the teachers of the law and the Pharisees bring to Jesus?

They brought a woman who was caught in the act of adultery. She had sinned against the Sixth Commandment.

b. What did she deserve because of her sin?

According to the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 22:22), this woman—and the man who also sinned—deserved to die. She also deserved eternal punishment, for the “soul who sins is the one who will die” (Ezekiel 18:4).

c. Why didn't Jesus condemn this woman?

Jesus didn't condemn this woman because he could look into her heart and see that she was sorry for her sin. Instead of confronting her with the law, he comforted her with the gospel. He assured her that her sin of adultery was forgiven.

d. Relate Jesus' treatment of this woman to the way God wants us to treat homosexuals.

We are to apply God's law to homosexuals, pointing out that their actions are sinful and that they deserve the eternal punishment of God. Only after the Spirit has led them to repent of their sin can we proclaim to them the comfort of the gospel, which says, “The LORD has taken away your sin” (2 Samuel 12:13).

Option 1

Evaluate: Since homosexuality is a sin, it is okay to refer to homosexuals with derogatory names.

Explanation

Jesus tells us to treat others, even our enemies, in a loving way (Matthew 5:44). Such a Christian example will help win them over to the faith.

However, when we use derogatory names, we do just the opposite. We alienate them and make it more difficult to reach them with the Word.

Option 2

Evaluate: God wants us to love homosexuals and accept them just as they are.

Explanation

We cannot love God and sin at the same time. “To fear the LORD is to hate evil,” Proverbs 8:13 tells us. Because we hate the sin of homosexuality and because we want to show love to homosexuals, we will not accept them as they are and let them continue in their sin. Rather, we will confront them with their sin in a loving and tactful manner, hoping to lead them to repentance.

Option 3

Discuss the parade mentioned in the introduction. How would a Christian react in such a situation?

Explanation

As Christians, we wouldn’t want to cheer on the gays in the parade. Nor would we want to ridicule them openly. An appropriate response would be to treat them like any other group in the parade but look for an opportunity to witness to our Christian faith. Perhaps we will recognize some of the people in the group. Perhaps we will meet them later and will have a chance to share our faith with them. Or if people ask us about it, we can explain our Christian views on homosexuality.

Use the illustration and key point to underscore the truths developed in this lesson.

Illustration

Sandi tried to defend her homosexual friends. “What makes you think you are better than others?” she

asked her Christian friend Tom. Tom responded, “Sandi, you’re right. We Christians are not better than others. We too sin every day. We are all in the same situation. We all deserve eternal punishment for our sin. Yet we all have a Savior in Christ.”

Key Point

God wants us to treat homosexuals with love and lead them to see not only their sin, but also their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Concluding the Lesson

Use the lesson summary to underscore the truths of the lesson. The summary answers the aim question, **What does God say about homosexuality?**

Key Points

1. God calls homosexuality sin.
2. God considers each homosexual a sinner worthy of eternal punishment.
3. God wants us to treat homosexuals with love and lead them to see not only their sin, but also their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lesson Summary

Homosexuality is a sin that earns eternal punishment. Therefore, God wants us to reach out to homosexuals in a loving way and lead them to Christ, who died also for the sin of homosexuality.



Leviticus 20:13

If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable.

All sin is repulsive to God, including the sin of

homosexuality.

Jude 7

Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

Sodom and Gomorrah teach us that God does not

tolerate sin.

John 8:11b

Go now and leave your life of sin.

When we repent, we not only express sorrow over past sins, but we also seek to avoid such sins in the future.

* The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

Homosexuality is a sin against the Sixth Commandment.

* Hymn 469:1,3,5,6

- 1 *Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*
- 3 *Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from thee.*
- 5 *Take my will and make it thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart—it is thine own;
It shall be thy royal throne.*
- 6 *Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.*

In love to God, we pray that our wills conform to God's will, even in regard to sexuality.

Lesson Activities

1. **Psalm and Prayer:** Read Psalm 67. Then pray: *Be gracious to us and bless us, dear God. Work through us to make your ways and your salvation known among all people, including homosexuals. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*
2. **Table Talk:** Encourage students to do one of the following with their parents:

- a. Pray for a practicing homosexual the family knows, that she may repent of her sin.
- b. Discuss attitudes about homosexuality expressed by friends, relatives, news commentators, and television characters. Compare these attitudes to what God says.

3. Paper Roleplay: Have students draw a comic strip of two friends, a Christian and a practicing homosexual, discussing what God says about the sin of homosexuality and what God has done for all sinners, including homosexuals.

4. More to Explore:

- **The Word in My Life 1:** Discuss a recent television sitcom or news show that depicted homosexuality as acceptable.
- **The Word in My Life 2:** Some homosexual couples adopt children. Respond. (God intended that children be raised in homes with a father and a mother where both male and female parent figures contribute to the children's healthy emotional development.)
- **The Word in My Life 2:** Why would we vote against a bill that legalized homosexual "marriages"? (As Christians, we know that God ordained marriage as the union of one man and one woman. As citizens, we also know that the traditional family is the foundation of society and the best environment for raising children.)
- **The Word in My Life 3:** Many in our society call Christians homophobic—intolerant, narrow-minded, or unloving—because we do not accept homosexuality as a valid lifestyle. Respond. (If rejecting what God rejects makes us intolerant, so be it. If believing that God's Word is absolute truth makes us narrow-minded, so be it. However, we may be guilty of not showing love—if we make jokes about homosexuality, lash out at homosexuals, or use derogatory names for them. Let us never be guilty of that!)

5. Talk Back: As a review exercise, write the following statements on slips of paper and put them into a bag. Have students choose them and read them aloud. Allow the rest of the class to respond.

- a. Homosexuality is just another lifestyle. (God

calls homosexual acts sin. He designed the gift of sex to be used by one man and one woman in the union of marriage only.)

- b. Homosexuals are just weird perverts. I don't want to have anything to do with them. (Using derogatory names is not a way to show love to homosexuals. We want to try to reach these fellow sinners with the law and the gospel so that they may be saved.)
- c. Homosexuality can't be a sin. Some people are just born that way. (Although some people may be more tempted to commit homosexual sins than others, that does not change the fact that God calls homosexual acts sin.)
- d. I don't want to talk about my friend's homosexuality because I don't want to ruin our friendship. (If you were a true friend, you would want to help your friend see his sin, repent, and receive forgiveness. Letting him continue in his sin is perhaps the most unloving, unfriendly response of all.)
- e. I guess God only considered homosexuality a sin during the Old Testament. I mean, he hasn't

destroyed anyone with fire and brimstone lately. (God and his moral law do not change. The fact that he is patient does not mean he condones this sin. Those who continue in their homosexual acts may not pay for their sins in this life, but they will suffer eternally.)

- f. When a homosexual gets AIDS, I think, "Good. She got what she deserved." (This doesn't show a loving attitude toward homosexuals. We do not rejoice when others suffer, and we certainly don't want a fellow sinner to die while living in unrepented sin.)

6. AIDS Research: Have students work alone or in small groups to research various aspects of AIDS. Or invite a Christian doctor to talk to your class about this disease. (Note that homosexual behavior is not the only cause of AIDS.)

7. Parade of Values: Copy Master 2 asks students to list words that describe the sanctified Christian. Explain that we are empowered by the Spirit and motivated by our love for Christ to live sanctified lives and to avoid sins such as homosexuality.



What does God say about homosexuality?

Answers: 1. holy; 2. pure; 3. wise; 4. self-controlled; 5. joyful; 6. patient; 7. loving; 8. kind; 9. compassionate; 10. forgiving.

~Parade of Values~



1. How does God define homosexuality?

- Leviticus 20:13
- Romans 1:26,27

2. What does God say about homosexuals?

- Jude 7

3. How does God want us to treat homosexuals?

- John 8:3-11

Lesson Summary

Homosexuality is a sin that earns eternal punishment. Therefore, God wants us to reach out to homosexuals in a loving way and lead them to Christ, who died also for the sin of homosexuality.