

Five Easy Steps to Wreck Your Life Week 1

- Do you think adultery has become an accepted part of western culture today? Why or why not? |

You shall not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:14 (NIV)

- Have you or someone you know been affected by someone's involvement in an adulterous relationship? If so, how?

Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel, lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house

Proverbs 5:8-10 (NIV)

- One way to avoid adultery in your life is to radically reduce the risks. If you are married, what specific steps can you take to reduce the risks of adultery? If you are not married, what can you be doing now to help reduce the risk of adultery when you are married?
- How can your group help you in avoiding the risks of adultery? In your opinion, are things like accountability relationships effective in reducing the risks of adultery? Why or why not?

May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer — may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?

Proverbs 5:18-20 (NIV)

- There are five ways that you can passionately invest in your marriage: get transparent, get alone, get spiritual, get help and get naked. If you are married, what is one specific thing you could do to work on your marriage? If you are not married, what is one specific thing you could do to better prepare for a Christ centered marriage?

- Why is having a strong relationship with Christ both individually and together in a marriage the most important factor in building a strong and faithful marriage?

For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.

Proverbs 5:3-5 (NIV)

- Another way to avoid adultery in your life is to visualize the destruction adultery can cause. In addition to tearing a marriage apart, what are some of the other negative effects of adultery?

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

Hebrews 13:4 (NIV)

- Hebrews 13:4 teaches that *everyone* should honor marriage. Whether you are married or not, you should still work to keep “the marriage bed pure.” What does this mean to you?

if we are faithless, he will remain faithful...

2 Timothy 2:13 (NIV)

- How have you seen God's faithfulness in a situation where there was marital unfaithfulness?

Final thought: When people commit adultery, it leaves a path of destruction that goes far beyond broken marriages. Therefore, we should all strive to do all we can to reduce the risks of adultery and keep marriage pure. Pray for all of the marriages in your group that they will strive to work even harder to reduce the risks of adultery. Commit to God in prayer that each of you will strive to do your part help protect the purity of not only your marriage but the marriages of the others in your group and those that you know outside of your group.



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For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- What are some of the factors that make a good marriage work?

Explore

Read Proverbs 5:1-23

- Why did Solomon tell the reader to listen to his words? (5:1-2)
- What did Solomon say about the lips and speech of an adulteress? (5:3-4)
- Where do the steps of an adulteress lead? (5:5)
- What thought does an adulteress give to the long-term consequences of her way of life? (5:6)
- What did Solomon encourage us to do? (5:7-8)
- What happens to the person who does not stay away from the adulteress? (5:11-14)
- Where should a person seek sexual fulfillment? (5:15-20)
- What did Solomon say about intimacy in marriage? (5:16-17)
- What is one of the reasons a person should stay faithful to his or her spouse? (5:21)

Reflect

- Why do you think it is so easy for people to fall into sexual sin?
- How can adultery destroy a person's life?
- What does it mean to be captivated by your spouse's love?
- What can we do to avoid being enticed by adultery?
- How does the fact that your ways are in full view of the Lord make you feel?

Apply

- What steps can you take to guard against sexual temptation?

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Exodus 20:14. Pray for those that you know who have been affected by adultery. If you are married, pray that God will help protect your marriage.

Day 2: Read Proverbs 5:1-10. If you are married, pray and ask God to help you reduce the risks of adultery in your life. Commit to doing your part to make that happen. If you are single, pray that God will help keep you sexually pure.

Day 3: Read Proverbs 5:18-20. Commit to God in prayer that you will passionately invest in your marriage. If you are single, commit to God in prayer that you will remain sexually pure until marriage.

Day 4: Read Hebrews 13:4. If you are married, commit to God in prayer that you will keep your marriage bed pure. Ask for His assistance in doing so. If you are single, commit to God that you will keep the marriage bed pure before you are married and while you are married. Ask for His strength.

Day 5: Read 2 Timothy 2:13. Spend time in prayer thanking God for His faithfulness in your life and in the lives of those you know and love. Thank Him for his constant presence.