

session 5 study guide

drugs at your doorstep

message

Some people believe that the Bible does not say anything specific about drugs or alcohol, but God makes His intentions for how we are to live and behave clear. As you go through this session, consider the following questions: (1) What's wrong with using alcohol (and drugs)? How should we treat our bodies? Read each of the Scripture passages below, and then summarize them in your own words:

Woe to those who rise early in the morning to run after their drinks, who stay up late at night till they are inflamed with wine. They have harps and lyres at their banquets, tambourines and flutes and wine, but they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD, no respect for the work of his hands (Isaiah 5:11-12).

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature (Romans 13:13-14).

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21).

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord (Ephesians 5:17-19).

dig

1. According to each of these verses, what are the consequences of drunkenness?

2. Does the Bible prohibit the consumption of alcohol? What evidence from Scripture supports your conclusion?

3. Even if someone is of legal drinking age, why might obedience to God for some people mean that they abstain from alcohol?

4. What are the consequences that drugs and alcohol can have on . . .

your health?

your appearance?

your mental/emotional state?

your relationship with your parents?

your relationship with God?

your ability to share your faith with others?

5. The Bible is clear on how we ought to view, treat and use our bodies. God created us in His image (see Genesis 1:27) and tells us that our bodies are not our own (see 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). For each passage, write a brief summary of how or why we ought to honor God with our bodies.

Romans 13:12-14

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

1 Thessalonians 5:7-9

1 Peter 1:12-14

6. Why is how we treat our bodies a way to bring glory to God?

7. Is it possible to honor God with your body when you are drunk or high?

apply

1. Studies show that 75 percent of teens will try alcohol, 44 percent will try marijuana, and 9 percent will try cocaine. In addition, 22 percent of teens will go on to use marijuana regularly, and 28 percent will become engaged in heavy drinking. Do these statistics surprise you? Why or why not?

2. These statistics are on a national level. How might they differ from the statistics for your school?

3. First Peter 5:8 states, “Be self-controlled and alert.” Why might it be hard to follow this verse when you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol?

4. The second part of this verse says, “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” Why are you easier “prey” for the devil when you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol?

5. What are some reasons teens drink and do drugs? Write these reasons on the left. Then, on the right, write at least two alternative actions a person could take.

Reasons Teens Drink/Do Drugs	Alternate Actions
boredom	try out for a sport, learn an instrument

reflect

1. How prevalent a problem are drugs and alcohol at your school? At your church?

2. What are your fears for your friends who drink or use drugs?

3. Despite the fact that it is illegal, the use of alcohol and drugs by some teenagers continues. What are some ways to keep teens from drinking and doing drugs?

4. What do you think the impact of seeing Christian teens drinking or doing drugs is on non-Christians?

5. How would drinking or doing drugs impact your relationship with Jesus?

6. What are some good reasons *not* to drink or do drugs.

meditation



Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 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—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

ROMANS 12:1-2