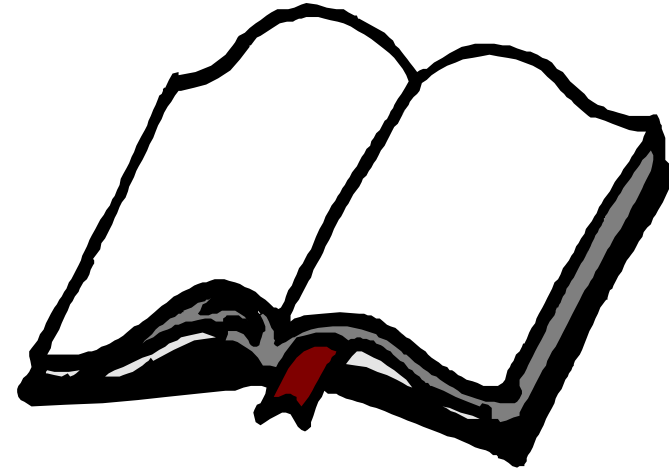


Look in the Book!



The "Look in the Book" series was designed to be printed on legal sized paper (8 1/2" x 14"). For better clarity, it should be printed front to back and folded as a brochure, beginning with page 2 (lesson 1 front).



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"Let's Party!"

Few things command such power over a young person's life as does the opinion of their peers. Pressure to conform can be good or bad but far too often it is the latter. Every year the church loses hundreds of young people because friends push them into experimenting with worldly pleasures.

In the passages below, the apostle Paul gave some very important instructions that apply to peer pressure.

"I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people - not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave the world."

I Corinthians 5:9-10

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

Romans 12:2

In these passages, Paul tells all Christians that even though we are not to "conform" to the world it is impossible to fully separate ourselves from the world. We are in the world but we must not be of the world.

One man put it this way, "A ship is in the ocean, but the ocean must never be in the ship." He was saying that a ship is designed to float in the ocean, but if the ocean ever gets into the ship it will sink and lose its purpose.

Christians are designed to live in the world but the world must never live in the Christian. We must influence the world not the other way around.

"Sex, Drugs and Rock -N-Roll" are undoubtedly among the three greatest peer pressures teenager's face today. Perhaps the most common place for these elements to come together

is at a party. The pressures of school have built up all week and young people are looking for a "feel good experience". They live for the weekend and they look to the parties for an escape.

This party mentality is nothing new. In fact, the book of Amos talks about a group of people who were little more than "party animals" way back in the Old Testament. They lived to party, and they put the party experience above all other priorities.

"You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end."

Amos 6:5-7

Just like the parties of today, they had music, sex and even beer guzzling contests. They had only one goal in mind - "Let's party!"

But, did you notice what God promised would happen because they did not put Him first? "...you will be the first to go into exile." (Amos 6:7a)

Does this mean that all parties are wrong? Certainly not. A party, like everything else in life, can be good or bad depending on how it is used. When a party is used to promote friendship and moral fun, it can be a very good thing. But, when a party promotes sex, illegal use of drugs and music with immoral messages, then it certainly is condemned by God.

When I was a teenager, a friend once asked me to take a ride in his new car. Trying to impress me with its power and speed, my friend drove faster than necessary and much faster than the conditions would allow. As we approached an intersection, he stepped on the

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LITB005.3 - Peer Pressure: Drugs

LITB005.4 - Peer Pressure: Rock-N-Roll

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Peer Pressure!

Sex, Drugs & Rock-N-Roll



Look 
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accelerator and squealed his tires as we rounded the turn. With a proud look on his face, he yanked the wheel and began the slide. A split second later, his expression turned from pride to horror and he screamed, "The accelerator is stuck!" We were sliding straight toward a telephone pole and the car was building speed. With complete terror written across his face, he closed his eyes and pushed the brakes with both feet. Gravel flew into the air, the tires squealed and we could smell burning rubber on the pavement. The engine revved louder and louder as it struggled against the brakes. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, the car died just inches from the pole. What a rush! But, what a stupid rush it was!

"Sex, Drugs & Rock-N-Roll" often influence parties in the same way the accelerator influenced that car. Things begin to move faster and faster. The frenzy of excitement builds, and like adrenaline being shot into their veins, people get caught up in the rush. The pressure to "do what feels good" increases and they press the accelerator even harder. Emotions begin to spin out of control and things are said and done that under other circumstances would be avoided. Many teenagers have taken their first drugs or had their first sexual experience while spinning out of control at a party. Without ever intending for it to happen, their accelerator got stuck. And, like the accelerator, they too are now stuck with the consequences of sins they committed while being drunk on the adrenaline of a party atmosphere. What a rush! But, what a stupid rush it was!

As we continue through this series of lessons together, let me beg you to do three things when considering the peer pressures of "Sex, Drugs & Rock-N-Roll":

1. **Use your brain.** Think! What would Jesus do?
2. **Be selective.** Not all parties are bad. Choose wisely.
3. **Remember, in America we are asked to sacrifice so very little for the sake of Christianity.** While many in the world are suffering torture, imprisonment and even death for their faith,

surely we can find enough courage to make good choices and put God first.

Consider the following description of how Christ suffered during the crucifixion. As you read these words, ask yourself, "Why did the all-powerful God of heaven go through this horrible suffering at the hands of those He had created when a simple whisper from His lips could have ended all the pain?"

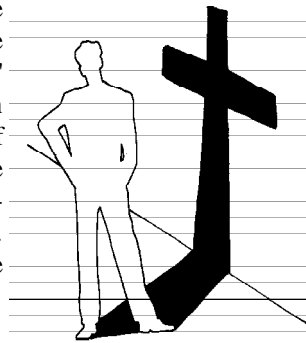
Imagine having an angry, muscle-bound soldier tie your hands with a rope and then toss one end over a beam high above your head. Then imagine the strain as the rope is pulled tight, lifting your hands above your head, and finally pulling you off the ground just high enough so that your toes could barely touch. Can't you feel your muscles ache? Then, after stretching you out, the soldier walks over and picks up a whip. Not a bull-whip like we think of today. This whip has many long strands of leather with sharp pieces of rock or metal at the end of each strand. Panic runs through your mind. Slowly, the huge soldier lifts the whip over his head, and with one quick flip of the wrist, he lays the leather thongs across your outstretched back. For a brief moment it feels like the sting of a thousand needles. Then the razor-sharp rocks and metal sink deep into your back sending every muscle into convulsions. Before you have time to capture your breath, the soldier gives a mighty pull on the whip and the bits of rock and metal begin tearing at your flesh. You scream as the horrible pain shoots through every part of your body, but before you have time to recover, the whip slaps at your back again. Not just once or twice, but over and over again the whip slaps you. The rock and metal slice through your flesh only to be yanked out again leaving behind bloody ribbons of flesh. Can you even begin to imagine the horrible pain Jesus had to suffer to pay for our sins? You and I should have paid that awful price, but our big brother Jesus did instead of allowing us to suffer.

But the whip was only the beginning of His physical suffering. Imagine how it hurt as they dropped the heavy cross on His tender back and as He drug it down the rough dirt road towards Calvary. Try to imagine the pain as it bounced up

and down on Christ's bloody back. Then think of the horror as they reached the top of the hill and a Roman soldier shoved Him down across the beams, grabbed one arm and held it close to the wood while another soldier drove a metal spike through His hand. For a brief moment, He forgot about the sting from His back, because now every nerve was on fire with what seemed like the pain of a hot poker being driven through His hand. Then the rough soldier grabbed His other arm and held it against the beam. With one swing of the big hammer the horror was repeated. Then they moved to His feet and again the metal spike tore through flesh and sunk down deep into the wooden beam below.

For a brief moment, Jesus felt no new pain as He lay stretched out on the wooden cross. Then slowly, the earth began to sway beneath Him and the nails began to pull at His hands and feet. They were lifting the cross and dragging it toward a hole. Pain shot through every part of His body as they twisted and turned the cross trying to get it into the hole. Finally, the cross slid over one side of the pit and now the earth began swaying even more as they raised the cross high into the air. Then, with a "thud", the cross hit the bottom sending sharp pain through Jesus' arms and legs as the nails again tore at His flesh. The cross was in place and hours of intense suffering lay ahead.

Why did God allow this to happen? Why didn't Jesus just whisper the word and end it all? He had the power. The same power that created the world into existence could have easily destroyed it. Why did He endure such torture? He did it for only one reason - love. He loves you and He begs you to love Him also. For Jesus' sake we must be in the world but not of the world. The power of peer pressure is enormous. Use it for the cause of Christ.



Look in the Book!

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Read the scripture(s) and answer the questions below. Feel free to write your answers on another piece of paper and enclose it within this study guide.

Luke 12:16-21, Amos 6:5-7

1. Why is it foolish to think you can go to a "bad party" and not be effected?
2. How can a "bad party" effect you without you ever intending for it to happen?
3. Why is it extremely dangerous to follow the policy, "Do what feels good"?
4. Since Jesus sacrificed so much for us, what sacrifices should we be willing to make for Him?

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Teens and Intimacy

"I feel sex is sacred. It's an act of true love and shouldn't be given freely. A person should wait until marriage to show this act of love, even all the guys out there! Guys feel they need to make conquests to be socially accepted, but that's not true. A guy should share his love with ONE girl; the girl he's going to spend the rest of his life with.

As for the girls, there are many reasons to wait until marriage. A girl's virginity is a very special gift that can be given to her husband. I've heard guys talk about girls who are virgins. They are the type of girls that guys want to marry. Respect yourself and don't give in. You'll be happy you waited."

Cheri - Age 17

"He should like you for who and what you are, not for what he thinks he can 'get' from you."

Kristie - Age 15

"I guess you could call it the perfect setup. My parents were in New Orleans for the week and I was staying with my aunt. I asked her if I could go to the movies with my boyfriend because she was going to a football game and my cousin had to work.

My boyfriend was being so nice and sweet that night (only because I had told him my parents were out of town). I was only to go to my house to get clothes for school the next day. My boyfriend said he really wanted to see this movie he had rented and suggested that we go to my house, watch the movie and order pizza. The thoughts that went through my mind! My first thought was that all we would do is watch the movie and eat pizza. No we wouldn't! I told him that I really wanted to go to the theater. It turns out that my now ex-boyfriend hadn't intended to watch the movie or order the pizza at all!"

L. S. - Age 18

Sex, Shame & Social Suicide

"...God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion." Romans 1:26-27

During the sixties and seventies our nation proudly boasted of a "sexual revolution". Sexual encounters became more frequently explicit on television, at the movies and in our music. Couples began experimenting with this new found freedom and a 50% divorce rate followed. Young people began giving into their sexual lusts, resulting in over one million teenage pregnancies each year and giving America the highest teenage pregnancy rate among all developed countries. Homosexuals began "coming out of the closet" and the plague of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases spread like wildfire. America has taken a huge step towards social suicide. May God help us!

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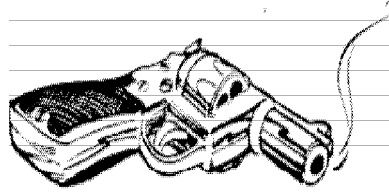
Something to think about!

Some condoms have a failure rate as high as 33%

Even though some condoms fail up to 33% of the time, "safe sex" instead of abstinence continues to be the government's idea of a good solution to this deadly problem. Did you know that teens are the fastest growing age group for HIV infection? "Safe sex" can kill you.

Teaching "safe sex" is like playing with a gun that has only three chambers. What would you do if I put a single bullet in one of those chambers and then handed it to my six-year-old? I know what my wife would do. First she would fall out of her chair from shock. Then she would shout, "Sonny! Have you lost your mind!?" But, what would you think if I responded to her alarm by saying, "Oh Cindy! Stop Worrying! He's perfectly safe. There is only one chance in three that he will shoot himself!"

This ridiculous story illustrates the senseless approach that our government and maybe even you are taking to this deadly crisis. The only real safe sex is when one man and one woman are faithful to each other all their life. Sound like marriage? Exactly! And where did marriage come from? Exactly! It came from God. Amazing! God's way is still the best way.



Caution Signs

Along every major highway, there are caution signs posted to warn us of the difficult areas ahead. One sign might read "Caution: Men Working," another "Slippery When Wet"; but, regardless of the message, each sign is posted to keep us alert. They make us aware of the dangerous situations coming up. Below are some very important caution signs that every dating person should know about the opposite sex.

First of all, it's important to realize that God designed guys and girls to be stimulated in two different ways. Guys are stimulated by sight while girls respond to other stimulations. At the service station where I used to get gas, there was a poster behind the counter that was difficult to avoid. On the poster was a picture of a model in a rather skimpy outfit. She was the typical pinup girl that you might see in service stations across America. There was something about this picture, however, that always puzzled me. In the arms of this beautiful woman was a set of socket wrenches that she hugged close to her body as if she were in love with them. Obviously, socket wrenches are the last thing with which a beautiful girl would fall in love. Marketing executives, however, realize that guys are stimulated by sight and their attention is captured by what they see. In order to sell their socket wrenches, they have placed them in the arms of a beautiful woman. They understand that every normal male will have a very difficult time not noticing her and thus the wrenches as well.

Girls, on the other hand, are primarily stimulated by touch. Many girls have commented that muscle builders on television are gross and ugly. Girls are not often "turned on" by what they see. They respond to hugs, kisses, and being held by that very special someone. This difference between guys and girls must be made clear.

It is vitally important that each of us become aware of these caution signs. Ladies need to be careful not to wear outfits that would stimulate guys to have sinful thoughts.

This year over one million teenage girls will become pregnant.

Guys need to be careful that they avoid touching or holding a girl in such a way that it would lead her into sin. Remember, it is just as wrong to cause another to sin as it is to actually commit the act yourself. Know the caution signs.

Look in the Book!

Friends that study together, spend eternity together!

Read the scripture(s) and answer the questions below. Feel free to write your answers on another piece of paper and enclose it within this study guide.

I Corinthians 6:18-20, 7:8-9

1. Make a list of ways that guys and girls are attracted differently.
2. What are some limits that need to be set before ever going on a date?
3. How far is too far?
4. Do you agree with the phrase, "True love waits!?" Why? Why not?

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Peer Pressure and Drug Abuse

In Africa there lives a hummingbird that actually hunts by lulling its prey to sleep. Once it finds a desired victim, the bird hovers overhead seemingly harmless. After all, who would be afraid of a tiny hummingbird? Ever so slowly, the sweet sounding hum of the bird's wings begins to take effect. Without knowing why, the prey gradually becomes more and more sleepy and finally drifts off into a peaceful slumber. Then it strikes! Without warning, the bird swoops down and with one fatal sting the victim is killed. In a senseless, needless trade, the victim swaps its life for a brief moment of pleasure.

Drug abuse is a similar trap. The promise of pleasure lulls the senses to sleep until suddenly there is the sting. The victim dies to himself and begins living for drugs. Notice the words of a convicted drug dealer below.

"Is it really worth throwing your life away for a cheap thrill? Yes, a cheap thrill, because almost always the first time is free. After the pushers get you hooked, then it gets expensive."

Just like the hummingbird, the offer sounds so sweet - free drugs from a friend. What could be wrong with trying it just once? Then comes the sting. All addicts were once just first-time users. Don't say, "It won't happen to me." Every addict once said the very same thing, but it did happen. The person who says, "I can handle it." is the very person who is most in danger of losing it.

Someone once said that the formula for real happiness in life is J + O + Y. Jesus comes first, then others and finally yourself. Let's apply this equation to drug abuse.

Jesus

How does drug abuse effect your relationship with Jesus?

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other..."
Matthew 6:24

Often, drug abuse becomes such a strong desire that it blinds you to the importance of everything else. Family, friends, church and the law all take second place to the need for drugs. God also takes second place and He condemns such priorities.

Drugs are often used as a way to escape from the difficulties of life. To forget a lousy week at school, many teenagers "party" on the weekend. In these settings, drugs, including alcohol, are often used to give the party "life" and to help people escape from the pressures of reality. Many adults take drugs because they cannot handle the pressures of their job or the problems at home. Drugs are appealing because they offer a temporary escape.

Although there is nothing wrong with wanting a rest from stress, God has always asked that we allow Him to be a part of that escape.

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:31

Like a father, God wants to help His children when they are pressured. Drug abuse is a lack of faith in your heavenly Father's ability and it denies God the opportunity to help you in your escape from the struggles of life.

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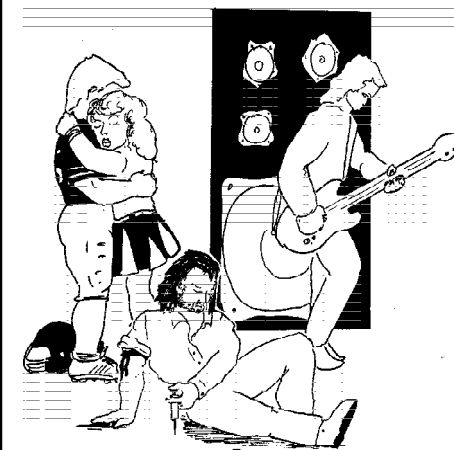
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Others

How does drug abuse effect your relationship with others?

"If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Mark 9:35b

Thousands of women and men are abused each year by drunken mates or spouses who are high on drugs. Parents abuse children, and children abuse each other. Drugs take over your mind and they turn you inward. No one else is important. You selfishly demand first place. Such a life-style is contrary to the above passage and is condemned by God.

So much has been written about the detrimental effects drugs can have on the human body that the author assumes you are knowledgeable in this area. But what about those around you? Should not drug abuse also be condemned on the basis of its adverse effect on others? We live in a society so centered upon itself, that others are rarely given consideration when making a decision.

All one has to do is listen to commercials to see how this selfish viewpoint is being mar-

keted. A popular truck company offers the motto, "Looking out for #1"; a famous hair coloring solution tells ladies to use their product "Because I'm worth it"; and a well-known drink mix champions the theme, "...'cause I believe in me". Although we can certainly not blame these companies for our selfish condition, they do accurately reflect the predominant attitude of the American society.

Drug abuse is much like those who favor abortion. Abortionists claim, "It's my body, and I should be able to do with it as I please." Yet rarely do they give adequate consideration to the second life within them or to God.

*"You are not your own;
you were bought at a price.
Therefore honor God with your body."*
I Corinthians 6:19b-20

Just as many abortionists selfishly make decisions without considering the rights of the child within, or the God who created both, drug abusers do the same. They selfishly decide, "It's my body", never considering their family, friends, the health of future children or most importantly, the feelings of their Creator who owns the body in which they live.

Drug abuse not only harms you physically, it is a disgustingly selfish habit. Drugs, when used properly, are a gift from God. But when drugs are abused, they can ruin both your life and the lives of those around you. Remember, others have rights too - consider them.

You

How does drug abuse effect your relationship with you?

Jesus was once asked, "*What is the greatest commandment?*" After replying that we should love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, He added, "*The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.*" There is no greater commandment than these." (Mark 12:3)

God demands that we love ourselves. He expects us to be proud of ourselves and to be happy about living, not full of guilt about our life-style. Drug abuse brings depression, guilt and sometimes suicide. Self-love is seldom part of the package.

The next time you are faced with a tough decision about drugs, or anything else, put it to the test. J + O + Y = Real Happiness.

Drugs can do harm to your body and even kill you. Drugs will lead you into trouble and you will regret it someday. Here are three ways to prevent drug abuse in your life: 1. Don't get involved with people who use them. 2. Tell your friends about the harm drugs can do. 3. Remember, you don't need drugs if you have God beside you.

Mike - Age 18

I think the biggest reason we should avoid drugs is found in I Corinthians 6:19. It says that our body is a holy temple for the Holy Spirit.

Mike - Age 14

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I Corinthians 9:27, I Timothy 3:2-3

1. Why is it foolish to say, "It won't happen to me" or "I can handle it"?
2. List five reasons why people begin taking drugs.
3. Many people argue that if marijuana was legalized it would help defeat America's drug problem. What do you think? Is it ever right to encourage one wrong just so another wrong can be avoided?
4. How does drug abuse effect people other than the user?

The Power of Positive Peer Pressure!

If you have Jesus, then you don't need drugs to solve your problems or make you feel good. Jesus can take away your problems and leave you feeling great if you just ask Him. And you won't even have any side effects! We can all prevent drug abuse. First we should begin by asking God to help us. Secondly, keep a watch out for people who are hurting themselves with drugs and try to help them see the effects of what they are doing.

Sonya - Age 18

What are some reasons why we should stay away from drugs? 1. Drugs are expensive. 2. Drugs can get you hooked. 3. Drugs mess up your mind. 4. Drugs can mess up your body permanently.

Wain - Age 13

You should always say no to drugs. People who try to get you to use them say they will make you feel better and make your troubles go away. We all know this is not true.

Kristie - Age 15

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Popular Music can be Good and Bad

Much of today's music is good and much of it is bad. In order to have your opinion respected, parents and young people must be objective and acknowledge that both types of music exist. This study will point to both sides of this issue and remind everyone that godliness is of ultimate importance.

A huge part of being a Christian parent or teenager includes responsibility. It is neither fair nor responsible for adults to condemn all popular music as bad, nor is it fair or responsible for young people to listen to all music without discrimination. To act responsibly, research must be done and choices must be made. Music need not be an area of conflict between parents and young people. Acting responsibly is the key.

Let's first notice the positive side of popular music.

POSITIVE MESSAGES - Today's music often promotes good messages. This is a fact that few adults are willing to admit, and it may take some convincing to prove it, but nonetheless the statement is true. Numerous groups are now promoting such messages as "save the environment", "provide for the homeless", "celebrate peace", "care for the elderly", "say no to drugs", "famine relief", etc. When popular music promotes positive messages, such as these, Christians benefit.

POSITIVE FEELINGS - For many teenagers (and adults if they will admit it), a gloomy, depressing day is quickly turned into a positive experience simply by turning on the stereo. A long, boring trip in the car is made bearable by a simple turn of the radio dial. Numerous occasions are made more enjoyable when music is added.

Little boy David knew about this uplifting quality of music. In I Samuel 16:14-23, he was appointed as King Saul's personal musician. Whenever Saul was feeling depressed, David would play for him. Because of his music, the Bible says "...he would feel better." (verse 23) After crossing the Red Sea and seeing the Egyptian army defeated by God, Moses' sister Miriam played music to celebrate the victory. Yes, music often gives people a good feeling inside, and it therefore seems fair to conclude that when music promotes positive feelings, we can benefit by it.

POSITIVE ACTIONS - In addition to singing positive messages about the environment, the homeless, peace and famine, many musicians are also donating much time, money and energy to making a positive difference in the world. Words and feelings are not enough. The true test of today's music is what it encourages you to do.

Positive Peer Pressure

"Not all rock music is bad, but bad rock is out there. We do not have to avoid all rock music but we should be careful in what we listen to. Rock music is influential. It is more than likely in your lifestyle, so what you listen to is very important."

Mike - Age 14

Some music tries to influence people to do the wrong things. Some bands sing songs that talk about going out drinking or doing drugs. If you are a true Christian, you will be able to decide what is good or bad. If it makes you wonder, ask the Lord to help you with your decision.

Tina - Age 16

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Peer Pressure!

Sex, Drugs & Rock-N-Roll



Look 
in the Book!

Bible Studies by Sonny Childs
(References are from the NIV unless otherwise indicated.)

M.T.V. Goes Hollywood

One of the most influential names in the music world is now making movies. For years, Christian parents have been concerned about the impact that this champion of rebellion and the "Do what feels good" message would have on their young people. Now there is more reason to be concerned.

The average teenager listens to six hours of music each day. When M.T.V. combined music with television, they connected two of the most influential powers in the life of young people. Now they have also taken their message to Hollywood. The impact will be enormous. Consider this review.

Varsity Blues - R M.T.V. & Paramount Pictures

Language: 139 uses of profanity, God's name was taken in vain 9 times

Sex: Front and rear nudity shown repeatedly, sex act shown between teens, sex education teacher asks for a list of slang terms and applauds students for giving them, young man who earlier refused sexual advances of cheerleader is later shown arguing with himself, "Why be good? I'm always good!", graphic terms are repeated and portrayed as acceptable throughout the movie.

Drugs: Teens are shown drinking repeatedly, Adults show approval and even provide alcohol, Drunken victory party is glamorized, Teen is portrayed as a hero for being able to hold to much alcohol without passing out even though he vomits as a result.

Authority Figures: Parents are portrayed as out of touch and ashamed of a child who is trying to find his spiritual identity, the coach is shown as a selfish, cruel, foul-mouthed racist who is only interested in winning (even if it has to come by black mail and illegal injections), a store owner gives the star quarterback a six-pack of beer after winning a game, a teacher is portrayed as an old-fashioned prude who lives a secret life as a stripper in a night club, police are made to look foolish as their patrol car is stolen by a drunken football player, during the climax of the movie the team rejects the coach and wins the game without the aid of the enemy adults.

M.T.V. will have an impact. How will you counter its effect?

To be objective and responsible it is necessary to see both sides of this important issue. After seeing the positive side of popular music it is now time to see the subject from the opposite angle.

NEGATIVE MESSAGES - Anyone who is truly willing to be open about this subject must certainly admit that there is also a very dark, negative side to much of today's popular music. Songs frequently promote ungodly messages. The music video industry has gotten rich off of seductively dressed women dancing to the lyrics of sexually suggestive songs. Many rock bands pack huge stadiums by filling their programs with simulations of sex acts, displays of violent instrument smashing and gutter language. Numerous artists also promote the humanistic idea, "If it feels good do it." "You only live once, so party hard." All of these messages are immoral, wrong and worldly. A Christian is commanded to avoid such influences.

NEGATIVE FEELINGS - Experts now conclude that even though some songs may not cause suicide, they certainly do encourage it. Numerous lawsuits are now being filed against artists who promote suicidal feelings by portraying death as an escape and/or solution to life's problems. Music often encourages disrespectful behavior towards parents and authority figures. Music videos often portray parents, school officials and government leaders as rigid and out of touch with reality.

Heavy metal bands thrive on rebellion and doing the outrageous. The loud, shrilling screech of the electric guitar is used to promote such feelings. Just as running your fingernails down a chalkboard gives you a certain rush, the squeal of an electric guitar gives a similar feeling. Many rock fans "get high" on this rock-n-roll narcotic and consequently do things they would not do normally. When music encourages feelings of rebellion, suicide and other ungodliness, a Christian must avoid it.

NEGATIVE ACTIONS - It is a widely known fact that, as we grow, we become more like the role models for whom we have a fascination. Many high school basketball players dream of being like their favorite NBA superstar. They buy his shoes, watch his games and try to slam dunk, dribble or shoot just like him. Rock stars have a similar effect. If they smash guitars, wear satanic symbols and dress up like "zombies out of hell", it is likely that their fans will copy much of this behavior. Admittedly, not all rock stars are like this, but many are, and too many Christian young people are being pulled into this perverted life-style.

Paul said, "*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" (Romans 12:2a) It is the Christian's job to be different. We are in the world but not of the world. In I Corinthians 6:9-11 Paul writes about Christians who were once sexually immoral and drunkards, but now they are "*sanctified*". The word "*sanctified*" means set apart, different, separate. Every Christian is special and set apart for God's service. When rock music promotes a life-style other than one that is special and set apart, it must be avoided.

The true test of rock music is what it encourages you to do or to become. What impact has rock music had on you and your family? Look at the clothes your children wear, the style of their hair, the way they look at the world around them. Is your family's music helping them become more Christ-like or more world-like? Some parts of today's music do promote moral, Christ-like living. The question is: Are we as Christians committed enough to reject the bad and learn from the good?

Article taken from the book "Sex, Drugs & Rock-N-Roll" by Sonny Childs

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spend eternity together!*

Read the scripture(s) and answer the questions below. Feel free to write your answers on another piece of paper and enclose it within this study guide.

Philippians 4:8

1. Make a list of the eight ideas mentioned in this verse. What does each mean and how do they relate to creating a healthy atmosphere at home?
2. The phrase, "*think about such things*" implies an internal atmosphere. Why is an individual's internal atmosphere important in helping the group atmosphere?
3. Make a list of various songs and the atmosphere that each creates. Why is music such a powerful creator of atmosphere?

Other Bible Studies

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"Living on the Edge"

The negative elements of "Sex, Drugs & Rock-N-Roll" tend to dominate the hearts of two types of people. The first type views life as one big, continuous party. They live by the motto, "You only go around once, so party hard". This was the subject for the very first lesson in our series.

The second type of person who is dominated by the world of "Sex, Drugs & Rock-N-Roll" sees life as a "never ending" adventure. They involve themselves in a constant search for an ever bigger and better rush. Confident that their youth will make them invincible to danger, they live life on the edge. They offer numerous arguments to justify such a life-style but each of the reasons is just as foolish as the next.

Sex

Many teenagers give in to sexual advances because they are convinced that sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancy only happens to other couples. But in reality, teens make up the fastest growing age group for HIV infection. America has the highest teenage pregnancy rate among all developed nations. This year over one million teenage girls will become pregnant. I dare say that every person reading this lesson knows of at least one case of teenage pregnancy around them. "Safe sex" is a lie!

Teenagers who are sexually active are most definitely living on the edge. They are taking a risk that will backfire on them and could effect their entire life. Consequences may or may not come in the form of an unwanted pregnancy or the contraction of a disease, but they will come. They will experience guilt, shame and isolation from God. Every sin has a pay back.

Drugs

Many young people take their first drugs because of the rush that comes from doing something dangerous or illegal. Others see their friends "surviving" the experience so they conclude that they will survive as well. Still others drink alcohol, swallow pills or shoot chemicals into their veins as an escape from reality. God is hurt by this type of behavior because He wants people to turn to Him for help - not to the bottle, pills or a needle. Any way you look at it, illicit drug users are among the ultimate risk takers. They are living on the edge. They are looking for a thrill and for some it will be their last. What a foolish way to ruin a life, chasing after a rush.

Rock-N-Roll

Thousands of teenagers each year become obsessed with new and old bands and music stars. Although some of these celebrities promote good messages, many do not. Too many young people believe they can listen to ungodly songs without being effected by the message. They honestly believe that they can wear satanic symbols, listen to satanic lyrics and never be influenced by Satan.

In I Thessalonians 5:22 God says, "Avoid every kind of evil." Christian young people who willfully listen to music, without being morally selective, are living on the edge. They are violating God's explicit instructions and they will pay a price.

Too many of us are living our lives in the "fast lane". In matters of sex, drugs or rock-n-roll, we get dangerously close to the edge. God condemns such a life-style. A real Christian avoids situations that might lead him astray (I Thessalonians 5:22). Don't live life on the edge. Walk carefully and be selective.

Want more?

To receive the next lesson, return this study guide and your comments to the address given in the box below. Areas for further study will be noted and this guide will be returned to you along with the next lesson in the series.

Lessons in this series:

- LITB005.1 - Peer Pressure: "Let's Party!"
- LITB005.2 - Peer Pressure: Sex
- LITB005.3 - Peer Pressure: Drugs
- LITB005.4 - Peer Pressure: Rock-N-Roll
- LITB005.5 - Peer Pressure: Living On The Edge



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Many of those who live on the edge, seem to think that death is an impossibility or at least not in their near future. They are like the rich man in Luke 12:16-21 who decided to kick back and take it easy. "And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" (Luke 12:19) The problem with this kind of reasoning is found in the very next verse. God says, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you." (Luke 12:20)

Too many young people believe that death only comes when a person gets old and gray. Or, in those few instances when it does come earlier, it only comes to the other person, never to them. God says, "You fool!" Death has no favorites.

Just today before writing this paragraph, I received a phone call about a friend who lost his 17-year-old sister in a car accident. About a month ago I attended a funeral for a 93-year-old man and two weeks later preached a funeral for a newborn baby. Death is not particular. It comes to the young and visits the old. Anyone who takes reckless confidence in their age is a fool!

In this series of lessons we have addressed some of the greatest pressures young people will ever face in life. But, as we conclude, we must consider the greatest pressure of all.

Since the beginning of time, Satan has been using peer pressure to destroy our relationship with God. Satan used Eve to pressure Adam. He used Sodom to pressure Lot. He used the Jews to pressure Judas and he will use others to pressure you.

There is no greater choice that you will ever make than to accept the grace of God. Choose wisely when you select friends, role models and especially a spouse. Peer pressure has an enormous influence in your life. You *will* be like those around you. Surround yourself with those who will push you toward Heaven not pull you toward Hell.

Are you a Christian or are you taking risks with your eternity? Are you living life on the edge?

A Christian salesman drove to another city with the company president. As they rode along, one thing led to another until the discussion turned to religion and the topic of salvation. "Jack," said the

president, "you've talked to many people about their soul. Why haven't you ever talked to me about mine?" This question led to a long conversation about God's plan for salvation and what one must do to become a Christian. After a long hour of discussion, the two men grew silent and Jack knew that the president was seriously considering baptism. "Why not allow me to make arrangements for you to be baptized right now?" Jack asked. "Yes, I think I would like that," the man said, but then he paused. "No, on second thought, I think I'll wait. I feel sure that I can show my wife and son the truth also. First, I want to go home and teach them. I think they are more likely to accept the truth if I wait until they are ready to be baptized."

Jack tried hard, but he could not persuade the president to reconsider. Soon they had arrived at the airport and the two men shook hands. "Jack, I hate to leave you," were the president's parting words. And with that, he boarded the company plane and the door was closed behind him. The plane took off and within minutes it crashed to the ground, killing everyone on board.

Death has no favorites. It comes to the young and the old alike. Are you ready?

In Romans 6:3-4, there is a beautiful picture painted of the death of Christ. In this passage, Paul tells us that every time a person is baptized, he duplicates the very death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is as if the person is transported back in time 2,000 years ago to symbolically take part in the greatest event of history.

Notice Romans 6:3. "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death." Just like Jesus died for us, we are asked to die for Him. Our desires are put to death. Our sinful life is crucified on the cross never to live again. At baptism, we determine to sacrifice our own wants and wishes so that Christ can live in us. Perhaps Paul said it best in Galatians 2:20. "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." Just like Jesus died, we die to ourselves at baptism.

Notice the first part of Romans 6:4. "We were buried with him through baptism into death..." After Jesus died on the cross, they took His body down and buried it in a tomb. Jesus was surrounded in the heart of the earth. Just like Jesus, we too should be buried in a symbolic tomb. God asks that our grave be made of water. When we are immersed in baptism, we are actually experiencing a symbolic burial just like Christ.

Finally, we must notice the end of Romans 6:4. "...just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." On a Sunday morning over 2,000 years ago, the greatest act of God took place. Jesus rose from the grave, and by doing so He conquered death and defeated Satan. Just like Jesus rose from the tomb, we are asked to raise out of our watery grave to walk a brand new, changed life. In baptism we die to ourselves, we are buried in a watery grave and then, just like Jesus, we raise to begin a new life.

Awesome! So much symbolism in one simple act. Perhaps now we can understand why God designed baptism as the climax to the salvation process. Without it, God's plan becomes empty like a game without a final score or a movie without the final scene. To God, baptism is like an instant replay of the victory His Son won over Satan. And, like every proud father, God enjoys watching that replay over and over again.

Do not be like the man in the story who assumed there would be a tomorrow. Tomorrow never came for him and it may not come for you. Why are you waiting? Give your life to Jesus TODAY!

Important Note:

If you are ready to meet your Savior in baptism but have no one to assist you, please call the number below. We will help you contact a person in your area. The Sonny Childs Ministries stands ready at any hour to help you in this very important step. May God bless you in your decision.

1-800-973-2646

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I Thessalonians 5:21-23, I Peter 3:11

1. Is it good enough to not do evil things, or must a Christian also avoid evil situations?
2. Is it possible to be influenced by evil even though you are not directly involved in doing the evil?
3. Complete this statement: "Life is too short to..."
3. Give an example of why you know that young people are not immune to death.
4. Are you saved?

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