

Never Enough
Never Enough Pleasure- Week #3
Small Group Notes
January 23 and 26

DISCLAIMER: Today's study deals with pleasure as revealed through the actions of rape and incest within David's family. While we want to teach the whole counsel of God's Word, we recognize that the content is sensitive towards children. Please demonstrate discretion about leading this lesson as a family.

Main Point: Never enough pleasure looks at how the pleasure that we feel, and experience is meant to point people to our Creator King, never to replace Him.

Introduction:

What was something that stood out to you from the sermon or video?

What was something that challenged you today?

Today we are going to see in Scripture a time that Amnon was a son of David, that had everything at his fingertips as a child of the king, yet he went looking for more pleasure and it cost him greatly.

Video Discussion Guide:

1. So often we want to put Amnon in a category by himself and apart from us, but from this story, we see that we can be just as guilty of thinking that something else will satisfy us instead of the Lord.

What are ways that we sometimes settle for temporary imitations for pleasure and miss the fullness that God desires to share with us?

2. Pleasure, just like an appetite, is never ultimately satisfied. Anytime that I am looking for a "less than" to fulfill me "more than," I will always be disappointed. Everything that is not Jesus is a "less than."

What are some areas of your life that you feel are never satisfied? How do they impact other areas of your life? What are some ways that disappointment creeps into your life when we aren't satisfied?

3. The pull of pleasure is a very strong thing, but it cannot ultimately satisfy. We want to be satisfied, and yet it cannot do the thing we want it to do. Sin overpromises and under-delivers.

Is there an area in your life that you have fallen for the overpromises of sin? What steps have you taken to reject the pull of pleasure and push towards finding satisfaction in Christ?

4. If we don't learn to steward pleasure, it will control us. Think about people that have sought out pleasure and yet it cost them everything.

How can pleasure be a good thing? What does it mean that "seeking pleasure the wrong way has a cost?"

Group Discussion Guide:

1. Read 2 Samuel 13:1-2

- Pleasure will either be stewarded by you or it will rule you.
- God has a great plan for your life; if pleasure isn't stewarded well you will never get to God's desired destination for you.

Verse 2 says that Amnon became obsessed with Tamar his sister. How have you seen the pursuit of pleasure as something that drives someone willing to do whatever it takes to get it?

What are ways that you can learn how to steward pleasure? How can a group help you to do that?

2. Read 2 Samuel 13:3-5

- Pleasure will never fully and finally satisfy you.

Verse 5 says that Amnon was encouraged to pretend to be ill to draw in Tamar. Unfortunately, we see a time when Amnon took advantage of his relationship with Tamar to satisfy his pleasure. What are ways that this can happen in our world today?

Why is this story the tragedy of surrounding yourself with bad influences as much as seeking bad pleasure? How does this speak to the importance of our groups helping us to overcome sin?

3. Read 2 Samuel 13:6-14

- The pull of pleasure can lead us to trade best for now. (Read 1 John 2:15-16)

Has there been a time that you traded the best for now? How can our actions in our lives be just as damaging as Amnon's?

How does Amnon's actions encourage us to see the impact of our sin beyond just our lives?

4. Read 2 Samuel 13:15-19

- Sinful pleasure always over promises and under delivers.
- Discontentment perverts a good thing into a bad thing.

How did Amnon act after he raped Tamar? How is that an example of the way sin works?

5. Read 2 Samuel 13:20-22

- Discontentment and an unhealthy pursuit of pleasure hurts us and others.
- Whatever sinful pleasure promises cannot compare to what God desires (Read Colossians 3:1-11).

How did Absalom show courage in the way he treated Tamar? How did he show cowardice as well?

What was surprising about David's response to Amnon's action? What might have motivated him to respond in this way?

Where did both Absalom and David fall short in their reaction to Amnon's sin? How did David's apathy cause turmoil in the family?

Do:

How might God be encouraging you to seek reconciliation in a particular relationship or to help others do so?

Spend time in prayer as a group for those that have been hurt from people seeking wrong pleasure.

What are ways that your group can help to protect each other from seeking wrong pleasure?