

**The Ten
No Adultery, I Object- Session #6
Small Group Notes**

Introduction:

What is something that you have learned about marriage in the last ten years that you didn't know beforehand?

As a group, discuss the role that marriage and family play in our society. In what ways are they essential? What good and right things do they contribute to society?

Make a list of what are the greatest threats to marriages and families today. With each one ask, why is this a threat?

For this session we are going to discuss the Seventh Commandment in Exodus 20:14, You shall not commit adultery. A part of understanding the commandment to not commit adultery is to recognize as well the value of marriage.

Discuss:

1. Read Genesis 1:27-28

- I object to making you an object.

Explain: The term "image" refers to the aspects of reason, personality, the ability to make value judgments, and other qualities that cause a human being to resemble God. Once God created man and woman, He blessed them and joined them together in marriage. By blessing man and woman, God implied that He looked on them with special favor. And by them being in marriage, He showed them their need of each other and to be unified.

Ask:

What does it mean to be made in God's image or likeness? How do we respect this truth in marriage?

Have you ever thought about how marriage reflects a covenant? How does that broaden your understanding of marriage?

What might the blessings and responsibilities that God gave man and woman tell us about His view of unity in marriage?

2. Read Ephesians 5:22-29

- Marriage reflects the covenant that the King has with His people.

Explain: Submission doesn't imply losing your sense of worth or self. It is a voluntary and loving choice to follow in a way that displays how Christians follow Jesus. Christians don't submit because someone forces them to do so; they submit voluntarily. A wife isn't forced to think of herself as her husband's property. She should see herself as his partner and receive from him sacrificial love that reflects the covenantal love of God. Therefore, the call for spouses in marriage is to be people that honor and serve one another's best interests and needs and not to be people that seek to serve selfish desires.

Ask:

As a child, what was the biggest thing you ever did to disrespect or disobey your parents? How did that serve your own desires instead of your parents?

How does a relationship centered on sacrificial love and submission reflect the gospel? How can you and your spouse keep these ideas as a common part of your marriage?

3. Read Matthew 27-28

- We are invited to be people who honor, not people who consume.

Read Jenn Wilkin's quote: "Lust itself is an act of contempt, reducing someone to a source of sexual gratification and nothing more. If the sixth command prohibited regarding our neighbor as *expendable*, the seventh prohibits regarding our neighbor as *consumable*."

Ask:

By Jesus' definition in verse 28, what are some areas of personal struggle that can tempt us to commit adultery?

How does the call to honor marriage extend to those that are not married currently? How does this passage call for purity, respect, and preparation for those desiring to marry?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:18, how does this verse help to form a battle plan against adultery and lust?

Read Colossians 3:1-3 and 1 Peter 1:13-16, how do these verses help us to see where our focus should be in our hearts? What does it look like to set your heart on things above and to pursue holiness? What does that look like in marriage or as a single person?

Further Application:

Consider these questions:

1. Am I honoring or consuming?
2. Am I setting boundaries that will help me get to the promised land?
3. Is my life an intersection of Heaven here on earth?

Consider these steps:

Guard your heart:

- Do I have unfiltered access to the internet or to pornography that is causing me to pursue lust?
- Do I currently have someone in my life that is causing me to fall into lust? What steps do I need to take to remove my presence from them?
- Am I currently involved in an action (adultery, sexual addiction, pornography use, etc) that I have been holding onto or hiding that God is calling me to reveal to my spouse?

NOTE: This small group discussion could bring up the need for biblical counseling to become involved. Be prepared as a leader to share the website: www.newvisionlife.com/care to help people find help and guidance through some situations that may arise.