Pursuing Purity

-Lesson 3: Relational Purity-

Reminder: God designed us to live in a holistic pursuit of purity, which touches all parts of our lives, not just our physical bodies. We want to look at our call to purity as so much more, we want to look at it as a call to Holiness. Holiness is when something is set apart as distinct and devoted to the Lord. The Lord's vision for purity is to protect our hearts, minds, bodies and more than anything to guard and strengthen our relationship with Him. Mark 12:30 calls believers to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. We don't pursue purity or holiness because we "have to" but we pursue it because in the freedom of purity we find the fullness and joy of life that God created us for.

In this lesson we will look at what it means to walk in relational purity. This may be a new concept, or feel confusing or abstract, so let's dig into what it means to live in purity and holiness relationally:

Read Matthew 22:34-40

1. What are the 2 commands in found in this scripture?

2. What is our primary responsibility as followers of Christ? What makes living this out difficult?
    a. Leader tip: talk about how we are living in disobedience and sin if we are putting others on the throne in our lives rather than the Lord. We are called to allegiance and devotion to Him first and foremost, so if we are not pursuing Him first then we are not living in holiness.

Read Galatians 5:6 and Galatians 6:2

1. What is the difference between being responsible for someone and having a responsibility to someone?
    a. Leader tip: we are called to walk with one another, not for one another. We push each other to the Lord, but the only one who can truly bear our burdens is Christ.

2. Are there people in your life that you feel responsible for? Why do you feel responsible for them? Why do you think the Lord doesn't desire us to feel responsible for others?

3. What are some unhealthy expectations that you might have of others or that others might have of you?
    a. Leader tip: give your students some reflection time to write out some expectations that they have or that they feel others place on them.

Relational holiness is able to grow when we admit our expectations of others and then release those expectations.

Luckily in relationships we have the perfect example who showed us what it looks like to walk in holiness and purity:

Read Mark 1:35

1. What do we learn about relationships and priorities from the life of Christ?

2. What would your life look like if you did relationships the way that Christ did?
    a. Ex. Dependence on the Lord, less fear/anxiety of failing people, freedom from expectations, loving people well because we are in right relationship with God, etc.

Read Colossians 3:1-17

1. What does this passage tell us about our relationships? What should and shouldn't be part of relationships for followers of Christ?

2. What part of this scripture convicts and challenges you the most?

3. Do your relationships look more like Colossians 3:5-9 or Colossians 3:12-17?

4. What needs to change in order for you to have the healthiest relationships?

Closing: Have your students draw a fence in their journal, within the fence have them write out all of the things that they are trying to control or fix (including people). Talk about what is truly within our control and what is meant to be given over to the Lord.
At the end of the lesson we want them to understand that the only thing they really are responsible for is their own relationship with God, if they are pursuing the Lord they will love out of a filled heart. Spend time in prayer asking for willing hearts that hand over responsibility and expectation to the Lord.